

Board of Forestry Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2021

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Items listed in order heard.

Complete audio recordings from the meeting and attachments listed below are available on the web at www.oregonforestry.gov.

- (1) Presentation, [Smoke Management Rule Implementation](#), Agenda Item 2
- (2) Presentation, [ODF-DEQ Collaboration, Authority to Protect Water Quality on Forestlands](#), Agenda Item 3
- (3) Handout, [Written testimony by Yamamoto for Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee Testimony](#), Agenda Item 5
- (4) Presentation, [Santiam State Forest Restoration and Recovery](#), Agenda Item 6
- (5) Handout, [Written testimony by Associated Oregon Loggers for Santiam State Forest Restoration and Recovery](#), Agenda Item 6
- (6) Handout, [Written testimony by Bangs for Santiam State Forest Restoration and Recovery](#), Agenda Item 6
- (7) Handout, [Written testimony by Boise Cascade Wood Products for Santiam State Forest Restoration and Recovery](#), Agenda Item 6
- (8) Handout, [Written testimony by Cascadia Wildlands for Santiam State Forest Restoration and Recovery](#), Agenda Item 6
- (9) Handout, [Written testimony by Fairchild for Santiam State Forest Restoration and Recovery](#), Agenda Item 6
- (10) Handout, [Written testimony by Oregon Forest and Industries Council for Santiam State Forest Restoration and Recovery](#), Agenda Item 6

- (11) Handout, [Written testimony by Oregon Forests Forever for Santiam State Forest Restoration and Recovery](#), Agenda Item 6
- (12) Handout, [Written testimony by Oregon Wild and Et al for Santiam State Forest Restoration and Recovery](#), Agenda Item 6
- (13) Handout, [Written testimony by Roseburg Forest Products for Santiam State Forest Restoration and Recovery](#), Agenda Item 6
- (14) Handout, [Written testimony by Salem Audubon Society for Santiam State Forest Restoration and Recovery](#), Agenda Item 6
- (15) Handout, [Written testimony by State Forests Advisory Committee for Santiam State Forest Restoration and Recovery](#), Agenda Item 6
- (16) Handout, [Written testimony by Wilkeson for Santiam State Forest Restoration and Recovery](#), Agenda Item 6
- (17) Presentation, [Oregon Global Warming Commission-Natural and Working Lands Goal Update](#), Agenda Item 7
- (18) Handout, [Written testimony by Oregon Wild and Et al for OGEC Natural and Working Lands Goal Update](#), Agenda Item 7

In accordance with the provisions of ORS 526.016, a meeting of the Oregon Board of Forestry was held virtually on March 3, 2021, and hosted at the Oregon Department of Forestry Headquarters on 2600 State Street, Salem, OR 97310.

All Board and Commission members joined online by 9:30 a.m. into Zoom webinar. Chair Imeson called the public meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

JOINT SESSION:

Chair Tom Imeson explained the morning portion of the meeting will be a joint session with the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) with the afternoon reserved for Board business. He outlined virtual meeting proceedings for Board and Commission members, presenters, and the public. He noted the public meeting will be live streamed, recorded, and posted online. He explained written public testimony can be submitted through March 24, 2021, for inclusion with the meeting record. Chair Kathleen George confirmed with Chair Imeson the preferred method to proceed with each agenda item under the joint session and agreed each Chair would conduct roll calls for each respective Board or Commission. Chair Imeson conducted roll call for the Board of Forestry (Board), followed by Chair George conducting roll call for the Environmental Quality Commission.

Board Members Virtually Present:

Brenda McComb
 Joe Justice
 Jim Kelly
 Tom Imeson

Board Members Absent:

None

Commission Members Virtually Present:

Sam Baraso
 Molly Kile
 Wade Mosby
 Kathleen George

Commission Members Absent:

None

1. AGENCY DIRECTORS AND BOARD, AND COMMISSION CHAIRS COMMENT
[Listen to audio](#) MP3 - (24 minutes and 1 second – 11 MB)

Peter Daugherty, State Forester and Director of the Department of Forestry (ODF) provided opening comments on the unique statutory relationship between the Board and Commission. He reviewed the history of the two entities collaboration, initiation of the liaison roles and the purposeful engagement that each liaison role fills as the two agencies work on addressing a number of environmental issues.

Richard Whitman, Director of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) outlined the two items being brought in front of the Board and Commission. He described how the two agencies cooperatively work with each other, agency partners, and communities on the continued implementation of the smoke management rules. He noted how Department of Justice (DOJ) will provide advice on each agencies' respective roles and responsibilities relative to clean water on non-federal forestlands in Oregon. He explored the core values of Oregonians relating to clean water and the environment, expressed the importance of the working agency relationships to achieve these outcomes and the continuance of the quarterly meetings between the Commission and Board.

Kathleen George, Chair of the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC), expressed her gratitude towards everyone joining the Commission and Board for the joint session and reflected on how each governing entities' missions overlap and diverge. She described the efforts that are contributing to the alignment of the two agencies work and outlined the goals that guide this interagency collaboration. She explained how each governing entity can offer solutions or remove barriers to help gain efficiencies for this work and for the betterment of Oregon's resources.

Tom Imeson, Chair of the Board of Forestry commented on how this public meeting may be his last, as new board members are anticipated to be confirmed by the Oregon Senate and reflected on how the relationship built over time by the Departments, Commission and Board is a testament of cooperative governance. He provided an abbreviated history of the growing working relationship, policy decisions, and rulemaking actions undertaken with the collaboration of EQC, DEQ, ODF and the Board. He encouraged the current board members to explore joint tours if an opportunity emerges through the work on air and water quality issues.

Public Testimony: No provision made for public testimony.

INFORMATION ONLY.

2. SMOKE MANAGEMENT RULE IMPLEMENTATION
[Listen to audio](#) MP3 - (54 minutes and 17 seconds – 24.8 MB)
Presentation ([attachment 1](#))

Doug Grafe, Fire Protection Division Chief with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), commented on the interagency efforts associated with the Smoke Management Program, highlighted the leadership from Nick Yonker relative to this work, and expressed gratitude for Mr. Yonker years of service leading up to his retirement.

Michael Orman, Air Quality Planning Section Manager with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), agreed with Grafe's comments, thanked Mr. Yonker for the foundational work he has provided for the implementation of the Smoke Management program and interagency collaboration. He outlined the goals of the smoke management rules update for the Board and Commission.

Nick Yonker, Smoke Management Program Manager with ODF, described the major elements of the administrative rules, provided an overview of the changes to the smoke management plan, and outlined the implementation progress to date. He explained the variances of the plan changes relative to intrusion thresholds, statewide communication framework, community response plans, and polyethylene covering restrictions. He compared the 2019 and 2020 smoke management statistics, commented on the impacts, or influences from the COVID-19 pandemic and fall dry conditions had in 2020. He outlined the ecological benefits of prescribed fire, and the impact fire can have on forests seasonally.

Margaret Miller, Air Quality Planner and Forester with DEQ, reviewed emissions reductions techniques, best burn practices, and the average amount of polyethylene cover used per slash pile. She explained how ODF and DEQ are seeking additional data relative to polyethylene cover usage, conducting a lifecycle analysis of alternative disposals of slash coverings, and how this information can inform future decisions. She commented on the Governor's Wildfire Response Council mitigation recommendation relative to investigating alternatives to prescribed burning, such as biomass or biofuels and explained how DEQ supports non-burn alternatives therefore developing a project plan on biomass utilization. She reviewed the various methods deployed to ensure timely and comprehensive communication across the agencies and shared a few examples of engagement. She emphasized DEQ's role in providing smoke mitigation and response grants for communities to develop response plans, acquire resources, and build up smoke resiliency.

Gabriella Goldfarb, Environmental Public Health Section Manager with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), provided an overview of smoke impacts on public health and highlighted the September 2020 wildfire outcomes that were monitored. She commented on the community response plans engagement by local public health officials, inundation of work to the health sector as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the need for modernization of the public health systems for counties and tribes. She described the multi-agency collaborative effort to stand up an incident management team to organize and respond to the COVID-19 crisis in Oregon. Goldfarb appreciated the work and level of collaboration across the three agencies, as well as acknowledged contributions to support this work by Kim Tham, Operations and Policy Analyst with OHA.

Board members commented on the Smoke Management Rule Implementation presentation.

- Vice Chair Baraso inquired about how comparable smoke intrusion threshold data is between 2019 with 2020. Yonker explained the criterion considered for each year as the rule changed what is defined as a smoke incident versus intrusion, when legacy rules were used, and described where the smoke sensitive receptor area (SSRA) were included.
- Chair George asked what alternatives of prescribed burning are being used, to what extent, and if any incentives exist to promote the alternative options. Miller noted the question speaks to the goal of DEQ's project plan currently in progress and plans to update the Commission as progress continues.

- Chair Imeson questioned what additional resources may be available or needed for the continued development of community response plans. Miller commented that additional funding and support was welcomed, and Orman commented on the potential outcome of the current Legislative session.
- Board member Kelly inquired about whether effective solutions, such as wearing appropriate mask in communities affected by prescribed burns or smoke will be promoted. Goldfarb explained how studies are forthcoming on the effectiveness of masks but explained that protection from smoke particulates is difficult to negate unless clean air spaces and smoke filtration devices are utilized, in addition to education and promoting this information through the development of community response plans.
- Commissioner Kile asked about how the initial communication process on establishing community response plans went, what barriers were encountered, and what feedback was provided. Goldfarb highlighted the Ashland community response plan interactions and phases of development. Miller explained how each community plan is unique, how each respective county engages differently, but how overall involvement and engagement with the community plan's implementation is high. Commissioner Kile followed up with what needs are arising from this work. Goldfarb explained resources for community planning, more communities to come together in developing response plans, and additional funding to promote this work. Miller noted how toolkit guides are being created by select communities but will be available as a resource for other communities.
- Board member Justice provided gratitude to Nick Yonker for his dedicated work and the multi-agency collaboration as they responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Public Testimony: None

INFORMATION ONLY.

3. ODF-DEQ COLLABORATION QUARTERLY UPDATE
[Listen to audio](#) MP3 - (1 hour, 9 minutes and 31 seconds – 31.8 MB)
 Presentation ([attachment 2](#))

Kyle Abraham, Private Forests Division Chief with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) outlined the intent for the quarterly update, introduced Department of Justice (DOJ) guest presenters, and noted a facilitator will lead the Board and Commission's discussion. He reviewed Oregon land use laws as it relates to ODF's designated authority on forest practices, resource protections, and water quality. He shared the successes of the agencies collaboration on past rulemaking efforts for protection of salmon, steelhead, and bull trout streams, as well as the streamside protection review, and as an outcome of this work, DEQ and ODF were tasked to continue their partnership to work on approaches for studying rules sufficiency and evaluate total maximum daily loads (TMDLs).

Jennifer Wigal, Interim Deputy Director with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), reviewed DEQ and Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) responsibilities as it relates to water quality, water protections, and administering the federal Clean Water Act for the State. She provided an overview on how DEQ carries out the water quality protection responsibilities, described the role of federal laws and programs, and noted the range of DEQ's goals as they strive to work with various entities in meeting water quality standards overtime. She offered history on DEQ's clean water act

evolution overtime, explained the intent and process for TMDL's, and emphasized the value in collaborating with others to achieve the agency's goals. She described how collectively these components lay the foundation for the DOJ advice to line up DEQ objectives, processes, and requirements in collaborating with ODF. She outlined the shared goals and framework for the memorandum of agreement (MOA) between the two agencies. Wigal closed with reviewing the two agencies' intent for seeking legal advice on the respective authorities and obligations EQC and the Board has relative to the protection of water quality on forestland.

Diane Lloyd and Matt DeVore, Assistant Attorney Generals with the Department of Justice (DOJ) outlined the topics included with the DOJ advice memo relative to the respective roles of the governing entities and public agencies to fulfill legislative intent by working collaboratively, combining their expertise to protect water quality in Oregon forestlands. Lloyd described Environmental Quality Commission's (EQC) role, controlling authority, and ancillary obligations relative to water quality standards, regulating pollution, and implementing the Clean Water Act (CWA). She reviewed the assessment role of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as TMDL and management plans are developed, and how DEQ's reasonable assurance framework ensures water quality standards can be attained and likelihood of implementation.

Lloyd defined designated management agencies (DMA) and their role in TMDL implementation, noting the Department of Forestry is the DMA for non-federal forestlands, and outlined EQC's adopted rule relative to TMDLs on non-federal forestlands and the Forest Practices Act (FPA). DeVore described the Board's role, general authority, and ancillary obligations relative to forest policy and management, forest practices rules development and adoption of forest practice standards. He reviewed the legislative intent behind the Board's duty in establishing best management forest practices relative to meeting EQC's water quality standards and pollutant reduction goals for the state, how specific procedures and series of findings must be completed before adopting any new FPA rules, and the regulatory role EQC plays if compliance is not fulfilled.

Lloyd explained how EQC, and the Board's roles are interconnected in broadly protecting water quality on forestlands, the legislative intent for the two agencies to work together, and the overlap of target goals for the collaborative process in achieving the obligations prescribed by law. DeVore emphasized the responsibilities of DEQ and EQC in determining load allocations for forestlands, serving as a target for the Board to follow and in turn determine how to best regulate forest practices in achieving that target, through regulatory or non-regulatory means, but noted how all public entities including the EPA partake in working towards the common goals relative to water quality standards. Lloyd closed the presentation by summarizing the litigation outcomes for temperature TMDL replacement, noting 14 areas are scheduled for development of temperature TMDL's and replacement in Oregon per court order.

Abraham reviewed the draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) framework, described each component included in the MOU, outlined the work yet to be completed, the process to which the MOU is being developed, and the overall intent for the MOU. He introduced Jaime Damon from Kearns and West, who serves as a mediator supporting DEQ and the Department's development of the collaborative MOU. Damon facilitated the questions for the Board, Commission, and agency staff discussion.

- Board member Justice inquired about how the work from the Private Forestry Accord may align with DEQ's Clean Water Act (CWA) efforts. Wigal explained it is unclear at this point if the accord will explicitly address CWA, but explained if a habitat conservation plan is sought, DEQ's water quality standards are built to protect coldwater salmonid communities and anticipate the agency's role in development of strategies relative to coldwater protections.
- Facilitator Damon inquired about what other elements should be integrated into the agencies' collaboration.
 - Board member McComb noted how climate change was not mentioned in the collaboration discussion. Damon clarified whether this piece is incorporated or whether this is an element the agencies should address. Wigal described how elements of climate is broadly incorporated when DEQ assesses conditions and various data sets when developing the TMDLs but recognized the opportunity to be more explicit on what can or cannot be considered relative to CWA and future conditions. Director Whitman presented the understanding on how TMDL's are identified, where water quality standards are not met. Some reasons for impairments may be due to vegetation or climate and DEQ takes into account the changes over time in assessing the waterways' return into compliance. Board member McComb asked about modeling component in establishing TMDL's. Wigal stated that modeling is a component of what data is considered and the information shared among her team.
 - Commission Chair George highlighted the opportunity through the work of the MOU to align and consolidate efforts, to avoid redundant work processes, to combine agency resources, to maximize engagement in between the agencies and governing entities. She provided an example around the value of aligning and clarifying the language as well as goals for this effort.
 - Vice Chair Baraso thanked the DOJ presenters in providing clarity to the Commission and Board by assembling the memorandum. He noted the MOU lacked a sense of urgency, and beyond the review intervals listed, there could be more emphasis on the public entities continued commitment to the MOU and collaboration.
 - Board Chair Imeson noted how the TMDL chart included with the presentation speaks to the sense of urgency and emphasized the governing bodies commitment to collaboration but explained how an underlining timeline outlining when decisions become critical and the work leading to those decisions must be done is not apparent. He reflected on the work the two governing bodies have completed to date, outlined some challenges for the upcoming Board and recognized the coordinated involvement the Board will need to ensure this work is fulfilled. Director Whitman shared his appreciation for Chair Imeson's service to Oregon and for his efforts in collaborating with EQC during his tenure. He reinforced Chair Imeson's comments by noting the replacement temperature TMDLs scheduled in Oregon over a six-year span, in addition to coastal temperature plans to assess cold water standards. He explained without agency collaboration there is a potential for disconnect between the two agencies and combining work efforts as well as resources could lead to ways in which Water Quality Standards (WQS) are met overtime on forestland with the Forest Practices Act, including the temperature standard. He described how the

recent work on the salmon, steelhead, bull trout streams are different from what is currently in front of the governing bodies. He framed the current work as identifying what needs to be done to improve conditions to meet WQS and bring a watershed or portions of it back into compliance. Vice Chair Baraso acknowledged the schedule provided and elucidated on the context for the work between the agencies moving forward.

- Board member McComb sought clarification about the cumulative effects of forest operations and other land uses that may impact watersheds. Director Whitman agreed that the lens described is an objective for this work, and not unique to forestry, as other lands across the state are dealing with this complex issue. He explained how relevant the work with the Department is to help account for the realities in the field and contribute to the finer grained details.
- Facilitator Damon performed a time check with Commission Chair George and Board Chair Imeson on how much further to explore the discussion on better aligning processes and non-regulatory methods. Chair Imeson commented on logistical time constraints, and Chair George recommended to close out the item, but reminded the public that both governing bodies are accepting written comment from the public on this item through March 17. Chair George expressed gratitude to the presenters, facilitator, staff, and public for coordinating this effort. She shared her vision on the collaborative actions the two agencies will take to complete this work. State Forester Daugherty thanked everyone's engagement and remarked on that collaboration between all public bodies is critical for this work's success. Chair Imeson stated gratitude from the Board to the Commission for joining them to discuss this work. Director Whitman appreciated the effort from DOJ in pulling together the presentation. Chair George closed by acknowledging Chair Imeson engagement and leadership for the Board of Forestry.

Public Testimony: None

INFORMATION ONLY.

Environmental Quality Commission Chair Kathleen George concluded item #3 and EQC Coordinator, Stephanie Caldera, announced the end of the joint session meeting at 12:29 p.m.

BOARD OF FORESTRY:

Chair Imeson reconvened the public meeting and introduced the Board business portion of the meeting at 1:04 p.m. He explained due to the delay of meeting materials will extend the time to accept written testimony from the public through March 24, 2021. Chair Imeson completed the afternoon roll call to establish a quorum was present.

Board Members Virtually Present:

Brenda McComb
Joe Justice
Jim Kelly
Tom Imeson

Board Members Absent:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. JANUARY 6, 2021, BOARD OF FORESTRY MEETING MINUTES

Approval of Board's January 6, 2021, Meeting Minutes.

ACTION: The Board approved minutes from the November 4, 2020 Board of Forestry meeting.

B. STATE FORESTS CLOSURE RULEMAKING

The State Forests Division has promulgated a set of Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) governing the public use of state forest lands, found in Chapter 629 and Division 025 ([OAR 629-025-0000 to 629-025-0099](#)). These rules are intended to cover all aspects of public use within state forest lands, with a focus on forest resource protection and reducing conflicts between users. Two updates are being pursued currently to address implementation of forest access restrictions and recreational immunity.

ACTION: The Board directed the State Forest Division to begin rulemaking to adopt OAR 629-025-0091 as a permanent rule and amend OAR 629-025-0030, returning to the Board in June 2021 for final approval.

C. FOREST PRACTICES INTERAGENCY MEETING REPORT

The purpose of this report summarizes the 2020 annual meetings held with other state agencies regarding the sufficiency of the Forest Practice Rules and proper coordination with other agencies with an interest in the forest environment. Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 629-605-0110 states

INFORMATION ONLY.

D. DEPARTMENT FINANCIAL REPORT

The Department submitted a monthly executive financial report to the Board. The report included up-to-date information about the Department's financial condition, the financial and budgetary status, and other ancillary topics as appropriate for Board oversight.

INFORMATION ONLY.

E. APPROVAL OF AGENCY DIRECTOR FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2020

The purpose of this agenda item is to meet the requirements of statewide policy by having the Board review and approve transactions submitted by State Forester, Peter Daugherty, for Fiscal Year 2020.

ACTION: Board approved the travel expense transactions and the leave usage transactions submitted by State Forester, Peter Daugherty, for Fiscal Year 2020, as summarized in Attachment 1, State Forester's Travel Claims Summary, and Attachment 2, State Forester's Leave Usage Summary. There were no purchase card transactions or requests for vacation leave payoff in this time period.

Joe Justice motioned for consensus of the consent agenda items. Jim Kelly seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion: Joe Justice, Jim Kelly, Brenda McComb, and Tom Imeson. Against: none. With Board consensus Items A through E were accepted, and the motion carried.

ACTION AND INFORMATION:

4. STATE FORESTER AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS [Listen to audio](#) MP3 – (15 minutes and 31 seconds – 7.10 MB)

State Forester Daugherty commented on:

- Allocated funds for Oregon wildfire recovery, prevention, and preparedness to the Department as a result of the 2020 Legislative special session and outlined how those funds were distributed. He described the intention for the additional funds requested by the Department for the remainder of the 19-21 biennium from the Emergency Board (E-Board) and how they were approved. Acknowledged the Partnership and Planning program leadership in quickly filling the positions and projects funded by the E-Board appropriation and listed the range of projects to be fulfilled. He emphasized the demand is high for this spectrum of work.
- Announced the 81st Legislative session has begun with thousands of bills introduced. He reviewed the Department's process in reviewing, tracking, and responding to the key bills identified. Highlighted the variances to the Oregon harvest tax bill, the range of fire protection-related bills to fulfill the Governor's Wildfire Response Council recommendations, and the Department's budget bill. He encouraged Board members to reach out to the Department's Legislative Coordinator Lena Tucker with any questions, as updates are planned to be distributed throughout the session duration.
- Discussed the Department's work with the Natural and Cultural Resource recovery task force, listed the agencies involved, described the components of the assessment synthesis, and reported the findings from these assessment efforts. He explained the overall themes, recommended actions, and projected costs to implement overtime. Emphasized the origin and intent for this requested report, how this information will be shared with the Oregon Legislature and contributes to the Congressional delegation request on Federal Infrastructure bill being deliberated in Washington D.C. Recognized staff who contributed to these efforts.

Board Member Comments:

- Board member Kelly commented on Oregon Forest Resources Institute Forest Facts publication and commended them for incorporating various perspectives in the latest edition, including aspects on climate change.

Public Testimony: No provision made for public testimony.

INFORMATION ONLY.

5. FOREST TRUST LAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY [Listen to audio](#) MP3 – (22 minutes and 43 seconds – 10.4 MB)

Commissioner John Sweet provided oral comments to the Board on salvage recovery efforts on State forestland from 2020 fires and suggested for the Department to consider developing

emergency protocols for future fire losses. He shared his perspective on salvage logging, housing affordability relative to wood products demand, and how the timing of county lands availability impacts harvest base.

Commissioner David Yamamoto provided oral and written testimony ([attachment 3](#)) on the 2020 wildfire outcomes and impacts to counties and communities. He shared appreciation for the Department's dedication and contribution in fighting the 2020 fires, noting with proper forest management could address the potential for future conflagrations. He commented on the North Cascade District draft implementation plan, listed areas of agreement and concern, and remarked on the various public comments received for the draft plan. He outlined the key targets for salvage logging, discussed the status of salvage logging across the state for private and public forestlands, and questioned whether the Department has a salvage policy in practice that recovers value while deploying restoration efforts. He reviewed how the funds from maximizing salvage efforts and increasing the number of acres for timber harvest can improve county services. He offered background on the Tillamook State Forest fire recovery, restoration, and reforestation efforts. He outlined the Forest Trust Counties primary objectives. Yamamoto closed by commenting on additional issues such as roadways in forestland, carbon sequestration, and fire mitigation efforts.

Commissioner Testimony:

- Commissioner Roger Nyquist offered perspective on county's interests relative to maximizing funding, increasing mitigation measures, and preparing communities for wildfires. He emphasized a collective, obligatory duty to clean future fuels on the ground to not allow a repeat of the 2020 Labor Day fires. Nyquist closed by expressing his gratitude for the Department's work and Board's service to Oregon.
- Commissioner Kevin Cameron thanked Chair Imeson for his service on the Board. He provided a first-hand account of the 2020 Labor Day fires, explaining the devastation left in the wake of these fires, and noted the value of county funds towards the recovery efforts in these impacted communities. He commented on the current demand for building materials and resources at the local level, emphasized the health and safety of the people as well as environment in the long-term. He challenged the amount allocated for timber harvesting in the North Cascade draft implementation plan and urged the Department to consider expanding the number of acres available for salvage logging.

INFORMATION ONLY.

6. SANTIAM STATE FOREST RESTORATION AND RECOVERY
[Listen to audio](#) MP3 - (1 hour, 38 minutes and 41 seconds – 45.1 MB)
Presentation ([attachment 4](#))

Liz Dent, State Forests Division Chief, briefed the Board on the preceding items heard in relation to Santiam State Forest restoration and recovery topic, introduced fellow presenters, and yielded the floor to invited testimony due to time constraints.

Invited Testimony – Part One:

- Lisa Phipps, Chair for the State Forest Advisory Committee (SFAC), reviewed the committee's purpose and role in working with the Department. Stated the committee reviewed the revised implementation plan for the North Cascade District and noted their

unanimous support for the plan as the Department is determining post-fire recovery efforts and adjusting the management of the forestland. Applauded the Department's efforts in addressing the multifaceted needs of various land ownerships, emphasized key attributes of the revised plan, highlighted the forest objectives of the revised plan, and explored the ongoing work to be done in conjunction with the plan. Recognized the complexity of this issue and balancing various perspectives but offered the committee as a sounding board for this effort.

Dent explained the majority of the information overview was covered by Commissioner's testimony under item six and shared by the SFAC Chair. She explored the human element of the 2020 fall wildfires by describing the Department's Santiam district employee's personal uncertainty but professional dedication to the fire response effort. Coupled with the loss of the Lyon's office, the same district office teamed up to conduct the forest assessment, evaluate short and long-term impacts, determined specific operation needs, and contributed to the revision of the implementation plan. She formally recognized these staff efforts, expressed gratitude for their service and devotion to the stated work. Dent reflected on the mandate for securing greatest permanent value (GPV), outlined the goals to attain GPV, and noted the target is striking the right balance for this land base.

Ron Zilli, State Forests Deputy Division Chief for Planning, provided an overview of the mosaic of forest stands in the Santiam State Forest, landscape-level scale of the wildfires, and overarching fire response phases for the Santiam State Forest. He reviewed the initial fire assessment data, forest resources impacted, burn patterns, and level of severity. He explained how wildfires impacted counties, the degree of impact, and the number of acres burned. Described the different stand structures, highlighted how fire impacted the spectrum of stands relative to age classes and within the desired future conditions (DFC) mapped landscape design.

Zilli listed the series of reforestation approaches over the implementation plan duration, the challenges in reforestation, and new opportunities to create fire resilient forest landscapes. He outlined the fire impacts to recreation and natural lands, ranging from trails, roads, culverts, and riparian areas. Commented on recreation, education, and interpretation next steps in debris removal, trail repair, recovery or relocation work, enhancements to recreation areas, and phased reopening of the Santiam State Forest. Shared observations about landscape resiliency, discussed the variety of terrestrial strategies being considered, and noted the aquatic recovery planning efforts underway with partnering agencies. He explained the Forest Management Plan will continue to be followed, as key structural components are maintained, and post-fire harvesting activities are assessed by resource specialists and agency partners to re-establish healthy working forests.

Zilli discussed post-fire harvesting operations projected and uncertainty around the secondary effects or tree mortality as a result of the wildfires. He reviewed the different approaches to the harvesting of the acres scarred by the fires, the elements considered to determine which acres to harvest, shared examples of proposed harvesting sites relative to the DFC mapped landscape design and noted how riparian buffers for all fish and non-fish streams would be implemented.

Jason Cox, Public Affairs Specialist, summarized the outreach efforts by the Department for the public input process as the North Cascade District Implementation Plan was revised. He shared a high-level overview of the public comments received and described the feedback loop for the

commenting process. Highlighted the themes of the public comment submitted, outlined the comments with crossovers, and described areas of agreement and disagreement. He appreciated the feedback provided, outlined the benefits for public engagement, and listed the areas expanded or added on as a result of the public comment process. Cox shared where to locate information on the Santiam State Forest interactive webpage.

Ramona Arechiga, Young Stands Silvicultural Specialist, provided an overview of the Department's phased approach and restoration plan development for the Santiam State Forest. She explained the Greatest Permanent Value (GPV) framework used for the restoration plan, described the various components that contribute to managing forestlands within the social, economic, environmental, and climate resilience goals. She outlined the restoration plan timeline with associated deliverables, collaboratives, and key objectives. She noted how the Department is identifying and forming engagement strategies with the support from sister agencies, regional, and local partners, as well as organizations to collaborate on how to restore these lands in the full context of GPV.

Invited Testimony – Part two:

- Jennifer Wigal, Interim Deputy Director with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), shared appreciation for the State Forests team outreach and partnership overtime, explained current interagency work on the scoping team for the western Oregon State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan, reflected on DEQ's feedback submitted to the Department for the revisions to the implementation plan and how it was responded to or incorporated. Wigal closed by offering DEQ's continued engagement with the agency and offered consultant role for State Forests team, as needed, for the continuation of this plan.
- Doug Cottam, Wildlife Division Administrator for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) explained the long-standing history of collaboration with the Department, shared ODFW statutory responsibilities to consult and provide feedback on State Forests matters and reflected on the strong working relationship built between the agencies. He noted ODFW's work on the steering committee and scoping team for the western Oregon State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan, how the agency's comments are incorporated into the draft plans, and how the Department connects with ODFW to discuss components of the plan in greater detail for mutual understanding. Cottam stated support and commitment towards creating a shared vision for state forests, to assist with design and implementing plans that restore healthy forests and resilient ecosystems in the context of the GPV.

Invited Testimony from Public Panels:

- Rebecca White from Cascadia Wildlands introduced the order of panelists who will share their input on the State Forests revision to the North Cascade Implementation Plan.
- Noah Mikell, student law clerk for Cascadia Wildlands, commented on the GPV mandate, listed a series of Department, Board and State Forester obligations associated in fulfilling GPV goals, and discuss the intent for the 10-year implementation plan revision. He listed various examples of policy misalignment or legal inconsistencies pulled from the draft revised plan relative to the Forest Management Plan (FMP) approved by the Board. He explained how regenerative harvesting (i.e., salvage logging) is counterintuitive to the FMP management objectives.
- Nick Cady, legal director for Cascadia Wildlands, outlined the notice to the Department and the Board, explaining this notice will be the basis of a forthcoming lawsuit unless the

Department complies with the following: 1) to drop plans to log designated complex forests areas (approximately 398 acres), and 2) to drop the acres that are proposed as Habitat Conservation Areas in the draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). He urged the Board to direct the State Forester to make these changes and prevent future violations of the FMP.

- Seth Barnes from Oregon Forests Industry Council (OFIC) provided a narrative on the fire damage to the Santiam state forestlands and reflected on the purpose of the forestlands. He listed benefits of fuel treatments, growing complex forests, and isolated salvage logging, as contributive towards meeting DFC for the Santiam State Forest. He shared the 2020 DHM public survey results around actively managing and restoring forests.
- Amanda Astor, Forest Policy Manager, from Associated Oregon Loggers (AOL) described her background in forestry, suggested the Board review the written testimony submitted, and echoed the Commissioner's comments made during item #5. She reviewed post-fire recovery salvage logging statistics across the state, suggested forestry actions to be taken to recover forestlands, and listed the number of benefits harvesting can provide to a recovering forest. Astor closed by commenting on the economic value associated with harvesting timber and how communities have contributed in kind towards the fire suppression efforts.
- Rob Freres from Freres Lumber company commented on his family forestland was impacted by the 2020 wildfires, described the recovery efforts on this land through salvage logging and reforestation, and explained how delay in timber sales on public lands affect small businesses and services for the counties. He urged the Department to promptly salvage logs and offered his company's assistance on salvaging small trees in the area. He stated the land titles should be transferred back to the counties, that GPV definition should be narrowed to meet contractual obligations to the counties and urged the Board to abandon the HCP.
- Senator Fred Girod explained how he is a representative for the communities who live within the fire region, commented on how timber industry ties to local and rural services, shared his connection to the environment and the Santiam basin, and believed poor forest management contributed to the fires, loss of communities, and destruction of his residence. He expressed how the voices of those directly impacted by the fire are not being heard, aired concerns about being safe from fire, and how timber on the landscape is setting the stage for a secondary fire. He remarked on the economic stability and safety needed for the fire-risk communities in the Santiam region so they can rebuild and recover. Girod closed by welcoming further conversation with the Board and expressed the need for better forest management.

Board commented on Santiam State Forest Recovery and Reforestation topic.

- Shared appreciation for the spectrum of voices heard and comments expressed, from local Commissioners to Senator Girod, understood how salvage logging is a great undertaking and balancing demands, and appreciated the State Forests teams' efforts on this matter.
- Inquired about whether the number of acres may change in the future and considered for regenerative, salvage operations as the potential for tree mortality increases overtime. Dent explained the range is wide as tree mortality is uncertain, crews obtaining access to the grounds to make sense of the operational boundaries while understanding burn severity and conducting appraisals along the way. Zilli added on how a prioritization scheme was considered with a series of forest values being assessed for each year and explained there are a variety of factors that influenced how the State Forests team arrived at the point of the revised implementation plan. Board concerned about beetle impact on the tree stands

impacted by the wildfires and noted how they will continue to check in on how the lands are affected. Zilli explained that adaptiveness is key, and if something materially different occurs on the ground then modifications will be made accordingly.

- Acknowledged the conservation and industry perspectives were presented with little alignment around the facts of the issue and suggested exploring the opportunity to better educate and perform outreach with both sides on an issue.
- Expressed gratitude for the presentation, panel engagement, and for the well-rounded information with public perspectives represented. Acknowledged the State Forester, not the Board has the authority to affirm the implementation plans and supported salvage logging as long as it does not degrade the integrity of the forests from providing all aspects of GPV.
- Aired disappointment with the State Forester in approving the revised North Cascade District Implementation Plan for a number of reasons. Commented on the misalignments in content over the iterations of the draft plan's revisions. Questioned whether approving the revised plan was wise given these areas of uncertainty in forming the proposed actions.
- Chair Imeson thanked everyone for their participation on the topic. Dent shared her and her team's gratitude for Chair Imeson's years of continued service, noting how complex these issues can be and appreciated the Chair's leadership.

Public Testimony:

- Associated Oregon Loggers (AOL) provided written testimony ([attachment 5](#)) for State Forest Santiam Forest Recovery and Reforestation item, which included an introduction of the association, perspective on the revision to the North Cascade District Implementation Plan, and post-fire restoration. Commented on specific components of the implementation plan from climate and recreation to roads and Habitat Conservation Plan. AOL representative, Amanda Astor offered oral comments under invited testimony.
- Courtney Bangs, Clatsop County Commissioner provided written testimony ([attachment 6](#)) for State Forest Santiam Forest Recovery and Reforestation item. Recognized the Department's effort to balance economic, social, and environmental goals but recommended an expedited salvage logging and reforestation in the Santiam State Forest.
- Boise Cascade Wood Products LLC provided written testimony ([attachment 7](#)) for State Forest Santiam Forest Recovery and Reforestation item. Commented on the North Cascade district lands relative to active forest management, forestland recovery, and prioritization of management objectives post-fire.
- Cascadia Wildlands provided written testimony ([attachment 8](#)) for State Forest Santiam Forest Recovery and Reforestation item relative to the Forest Management Plan, meeting the greatest permanent value, and the revised implementation plan. Asked the Board to stop the sale of post-fire projects under the revised implementation plan.
- Fairchild provided written testimony ([attachment 9](#)) for State Forest Santiam Forest Recovery and Reforestation item. Objected to the proposed logging activities in the Santiam Forest under the revised implementation plan. Commented on the Departments' management, planning, and recovery efforts.
- Oregon Forest Industries Council (OFIC) provided oral and written testimony ([attachment 10](#)) for State Forest Santiam Forest Recovery and Reforestation item. Seth Barnes provided background on his background, reviewed intention for the State Forests, and presented a series of post-fire recovery strategies. Reflected on DHM research survey of Oregonians in 2020. OFIC representative, Seth Barnes offered oral comments under invited testimony.

- Oregon Forests Forever provided written testimony ([attachment 11](#)) for State Forest Santiam Forest Recovery and Reforestation item. Shared the organization's overall campaign message, number of submissions, and highlighted the message nine key points. Offered examples of the public submissions.
- Oregon Wild and Et al provided written testimony ([attachment 12](#)) on behalf of the Oregon Climate Action Plan (OCAP) coalition for the State Forest Santiam Forest Recovery and Reforestation item. Explained how managing forestland include wildfire relate to the directives set forth in Executive Order 20-04. Offered perspective on the Santiam State Forest restoration and recovery efforts. Encouraged the Department to seek guidance from the Board on modernizing approach to manage forestland for wildfire risk and restoration post-fire, outlining the ecological and human protection values of this request. Listed recommendations for post-fire recovery and described how to protect communities from threat of wildfire.
- Roseburg Forest Products provided written testimony ([attachment 13](#)) for State Forest Santiam Forest Recovery and Reforestation item. Offered background on Roseburg lands in Oregon and recent fire history. Noted Roseburg adjacent lands with public lands and urged the Board to prioritize management and salvage.
- Salem Audubon Society provided written testimony ([attachment 14](#)) for State Forest Santiam Forest Recovery and Reforestation item. Commented on areas designated for desired future conditions (DFC), forest structure, and fuel reduction. Explained with the Santiam State Forest Revised Implementation Plan does not demonstrate the Department's value for water quality, threatened and endangered species, biodiversity, or forest resilience in the face of a changing climate.
- State Forest Advisory Committee provided written testimony ([attachment 15](#)) for State Forest Santiam Forest Recovery and Reforestation item. Outlined the advisory committee purpose. Reviewed the North Cascade District Implementation Plan proposed revisions, aired support for the Department's plan, and highlighted key aspects of the plan. Explained complex situation with managing, planning, and balancing various perspectives post-fire. Recognized value for outreach, education, and transparency for long-term success of state forest restoration efforts. Chair Phipps offered oral comments under invited testimony.
- Wilkeson provided written testimony ([attachment 16](#)) on behalf of Hampton Lumber for State Forest Santiam Forest Recovery and Reforestation item, commenting on the draft North Cascade District Implementation Plan. Emphasized expediting post-fire harvest sales to generate revenue for the Department and counties, tree health assessment, riparian management area buffers clarification, accessibility of roadways in the forest, and restoring Santiam State Forest proactively.

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7. OREGON GLOBAL WARMING COMMISSION – NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS GOAL UPDATE

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 – (26 minutes and 35 seconds – 12.1 MB)
Presentation ([attachment 17](#))

Danny Norlander, Carbon and Forest Health Analyst, introduced the topic, main presenter, and intent for the presentation. He noted the Department's collaboration with the Oregon Global

Warming Commission as they work to fulfil the targets included with the Governor’s Executive Order 20-04.

Catherine Macdonald, Chair for the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC) reviewed the six steps to developing natural and working lands proposal, described OGWC activities to date, highlighted the interagency coordination in maximizing landowner, technical, and public participation. She discussed the planned activities for the proposal and listed the milestones for the OGWC deliverables. Commented on the characteristics of land sector emissions and explained the influences on carbon flux, uncertainty of natural land sector inventory, and variance of carbon sink. She examined the seven questions and components for each decision that will be answered in the final proposal to the Governor’s office. Macdonald welcomed responses to the seven questions or other considerations from the Board.

Board members commented on the questions included with the Oregon Global Warming Commission – Natural and Working Lands Goal Update presentation.

- Noted the high level of uncertainty around the natural land sector inventory and asked if the level of research or data being accrued will lessen this uncertainty. Macdonald stated yes, she explained ongoing work at a federal level, national interest, and state engagement overtime can help with this effort.
- Chair Imeson explained how land sector as a whole is different and suggested a deeper dive. He commented on how the historical land use planning laws benefit Oregon, explored the challenges on private lands to maintain and manage forestlands, and suggested incentives. Macdonald agreed, commenting on the value of community and transportation planning in addition to incentives for shifting management of forestlands.
- Asked how forest products fit in and accounted for within the forest sector goals. Macdonald noted that forest products are considered in developing land use changes in forestry inventory and explained how this was identified as an area of improvement, but unsure of export role plays in this work. Norlander stated follow-up can be provided to respond to the Board’s question.
- Commented on the stratification of use of natural and working lands. Macdonald explained work groups are thinking through how blue carbon overlaps with forests and acknowledged gaps in agriculture pathways, but hopeful to pull together some inventory with additional funding and shared gratitude for the Department work on reporting on current flux and stocks in Oregon forests.
- Inquired how the proposal will consider wood products with net carbon stored and sequestered but calculated with minus the greenhouse gas emissions emitted. Macdonald stated the national inventory includes the net from the land sector and explained how OGWC is taking stock from other states on how they are approaching this concept and treating biogenic emissions.
- Macdonald informed the Board about the operational natural and working lands page, what it will include, and available for the Board to review. She made herself available for greater conversations on this topic with the Board and State Forester Daugherty noted the Board Administrator will send the OGWC link to the Board,
<https://www.keeporegoncool.org/natural-working-lands>.

Public Testimony:

- Oregon Wild and et al submitted written testimony ([attachment 18](#)) on behalf of the participants in the Oregon Climate Action Plan (OCAP) coalition for the Oregon Global Warming Commission update. Noted focus on the Board work plan for 2021, update to Goal G in the Forestry Program for Oregon and need for continue action for implementation to fulfill the mandates set forth in Executive Order 20-04. Urged Board action to slow the impacts of climate change as well as safeguard from future impacts. Cited references for the Department to consider with the revision of Goal G, listed guiding principles for climate-smart forest policy, and provided policy recommendations.

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8. **BOARD AND CLOSING COMMENTS**
[Listen to audio](#) MP3 - (16 minutes and 35 seconds – 3.02 MB)

Board Chair, Tom Imeson, reviewed the agenda items in sequential order with Board members and Department staff, and welcomed any closing comments or follow-up questions on topic items.

- Board member Kelly shared appreciation and gratitude for Chair Imeson’s leadership, mentorship, and long-standing public service for Oregon. Board member McComb and Justice echoed similar sentiments towards Chair Imeson’s service to Oregonians and the Department. Chair Imeson summarized his experience in public service and commented on the state of polarized views that exists in the policymaking arena.
- Chair Imeson reflected on the overall meeting, noting the opportunity for a joint meeting with EQC, the collaboration, and the amount of logistical coordination involved with these efforts. He highlighted the importance in connecting with regulators and partner agencies on natural resource work. State Forester Daugherty remarked on the additional time required for these collaborations in planning and executing joint sessions. Chair Imeson noted how the time and agency review process, combined with outages associated resulting from winter natural disasters had led to the delay in publishing meeting materials for the Board and public. He also mentioned his hope for the existing limitations on gatherings and social distancing relative to COVID-19 to be reduced overtime, allowing the tours and meeting in-person to return for the Board. He agreed there is a value in meeting, touring, and participating in joint sessions together.

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Board Chair Imeson adjourned the public meeting at 4:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Peter Daugherty



Peter Daugherty, State Forester and
Secretary to the Board

HR

Meeting minutes approved at the July 21, 2021, Board Meeting