

## STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item No.:	K
Work Plan:	Forest Resources
Topic:	Committee Appointments
Presentation Title:	Committee for Family Forestlands Appointment
Date of Presentation:	June 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
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### SUMMARY

This agenda item relates to the reappointment of three members of the Committee for Forestlands (CFF). Southern Oregon Landowner Representative (Gary Jensen), Landowner-At-Large Representative (Kate McMichael), and Eastern Oregon Landowner Representative (Maurizio Valerio) have served their first term and would like to be reappointed for a second term.

### CONTEXT

The CFF, a standing committee to the Board, provides advice to the Board and the State Forester on matters relating to family forestlands, including maintaining a viable family forestland base in Oregon, and maintaining and enhancing the contributions that family forestland owners make to Oregon, including timber availability and the protection and enhancement of watersheds and fish and wildlife habitat. The CFF also evaluates the impact of forest policies on family forestland owners.

### BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

CFF members serve three-year appointments that generally run from July through June (Attachment 1). There are seven voting members, including four family forestland owners, one forest industry representative, one conservation community representative, and one citizen-at-large. The CFF currently has six ex-officio members representing Oregon State University College of Forestry, the State Forester, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, public land managers, logging/forestry consulting interests and small forestland owner groups. Additional information on the CFF can be found [here](#).

Currently, the CFF Southern Oregon Landowner, Landowner-At-Large and Eastern Oregon Landowner position terms will expire in June 2024.

### RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the re-appointment of Gary Jensen as the Southern Oregon Landowner, Kate McMichael as the Landowner-At-Large, and Maurizio Valerio as the Eastern Oregon Landowner representative of the CFF. Their biographies are noted in Attachment 2.

### ATTACHMENTS

- (1) CFF Voting Members Appointment Schedule
- (2) Member Nomination Biography

**Proposed Committee for Family Forestlands  
Voting Members Appointment Schedule**

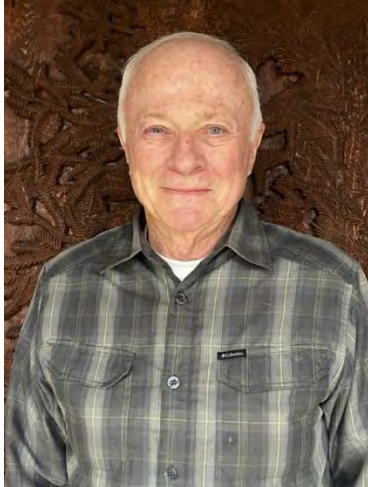
**June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Proposed schedule for CFF members' appointments / reappointments. New Voting Members, Chair and Vice Chair to be appointed by the Board of Forestry.

<b>Voting Member</b>	<b>Appointed</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>
Citizen at Large <b>Wendy Gerlach (Chair)</b>	2020			June 30 X	
Conservation Community <b>Kaola Swanson (Vice Chair)</b>	2019		June 30 X		
Forest Industry <b>Eric Kranzush</b>	2023			June 30	
Southern Oregon Area <b>Gary Jensen</b>	2021				June 30 X
Landowner at Large <b>Kate McMichael</b>	2021				June 30 X
Eastern Oregon Area <b>Maurizio Valerio</b>	2021				June 30 X
Northwest Oregon Area <b>David Bugni</b>	2023			June 30	

X = have or will have served two terms, not eligible for reappointment, and a new member must be nominated.

## Committee for Family Forestlands – Gary Jensen Biography



Education - BS Forest Management - Humboldt State University  
BS Accounting- Linfield College

Career – Retired Professional Forester

Upon graduating from Humboldt State University, Gary's professional career in forestry was deferred by service in the Marine Corps. He served 30 plus years between active and reserve duty as an engineering officer. After returning from active duty in 1972, Gary began his industrial forestry career working for various companies in the Northwest eventually ending up with Lane Plywood Inc. where he spent over 25 years working with forest resources in Lane County, Oregon. Following his industrial forestry experiences Gary expanded his life experiences by teaching high school forestry at Pleasant Hill High School. During this time, he also provided forestry consulting services to landowners in the northwest. Today he and his wife oversee the stewardship of their family tree farm in Lane County. Along the way Gary has been dedicated to the community by serving on various resource-oriented committees and boards. Currently he represents Zone 3 of the Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District. He also represents the Southern Willamette Valley Small Forestland Owners on the Committee for Family Forestlands under the Oregon Board of Forestry. In addition, he is an active member of the Lane County Small Woodlands Association and serves on its board. Through these life experiences Gary has built a strong background in the dynamics of our region's natural resources and an understanding of the impact of public, government, and industrial activities on forest lands.

## Committee for Family Forestlands – Maurizio Valerio Biography



Maurizio and his wife live on their forest land in Union County on the western slopes of the Wallowa Mountains. They are both Graduate of the Master Woodland Management Training (OSU). They have been managing their forest for more than 30 years during which they worked to maintain and enhance the general forest ecosystem, optimize the timber stand, water, wildlife, and mitigate the fire risk. Their entire family is involved in the active management of their forest, and they are a member of the Oregon Tree Farm System and NEOSWA (North East Oregon Small Woodlands Association). In 2019 they received the Forest Steward Award from Union County, and the runner up award for Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year in 2020.

## Committee for Family Forestlands – Kate McMichael Biography



Kate is a retired high school world religions and ethics teacher, who became a small woodland owner when she (and wife, Theresa) purchased 39 acres in Vida in 2019. Knowing that decades of loving and backpacking through forests did not automatically translate into understanding forest health or stewardship, they reached out to their ODF Stewardship Forester and local Extension Forester. They took classes, went on forest tours, drafted a management plan, and joined Oregon Small Woodlands Association. When the Holiday Farm Fire tore through their property, their focus shifted to restoration and reforestation. Gratitude for the outpouring of post-fire assistance and ongoing support from the forestry and timber community has been a source of comfort, but also a call to action. When not working on the myriad activities that are part and parcel of “experiments in post-fire reforestation in a changing climate” on their still battered McKenzie woodland, Kate has found her former and current lives coming together in a growing commitment to science-based forest literacy. This has led her to become more widely involved in the forest sector community, both locally and statewide. She is active in the Women Owning Woodlands Network, Oregon Women in Timber, Lane Families for Farms and Forests, the McKenzie Watershed Stewardship Group, the Oregon Tree Farm System and Oregon Small Woodlands Association, both in Lane County and statewide. In her role as Landowner at Large on the CFF, Kate sees her “niche” as speaking from the perspective of new, very small woodland owners who have been impacted by wildfire. When not attending meetings or battling invasive vegetation, she dreams of the day when today’s struggling seedlings become a resilient forest.