



Board of Forestry Public Meeting

3. Private Forest Accord Draft Letter of Support

This item serves as an opportunity for the Board of Forestry to review a draft letter written in support of Private Forest Accord funding that may be submitted to the Governor's Office.

This is a decision item.

To: Governor's Office and Legislative Leadership

We, the Oregon Board of Forestry, hereby express our support for the Oregon Private Forest Accord (PFA). Furthermore, we urge the State Legislature to fully fund the PFA, including the PFA Grant Program, the Small Forestland Investment in Stream Habitat program (SFISH), and the PFA Adaptive Management program in the 2025-2027 state budget. This funding is essential for the success of this historic accord.

The PFA was created through a consortium of environmental organizations, industrial forestland owners, and small family forest owners (Authors). The Board recognizes the vital role the Governor's office and State Legislature played in both convening the Authors and passing the historic PFA into law. The Oregon Board of Forestry took the torch and passed a series of administrative rules, further codifying and carrying out the PFA program as enacted by the legislature. Those rules are now fully implemented across Oregon's private forestlands. The Adaptive Management program is up and running, the PFA Grant Program has awarded grants for exciting projects enhancing key habitat, and the SFISH program recently signed letters announcing the first wave of project selections. We must keep funding and supporting those new programs.

The authorizing legislation for the PFA passed with bipartisan support in 2022 as Senate Bill 1501. A fundamental goal of the PFA is to achieve an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) through an approved Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) that will ensure compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act. SB 1501, requires that the ITP, along with an approved HCP, - be issued by 2027 in order to keep the PFA program in place. In July of this year the Oregon Department of Forestry submitted the draft PFA HCP to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. That draft HCP is predicated on the funding to support the programs and commitments the State has made.

We urge the Governor's Office and the 2025 legislature to honor the commitments made by appropriating the needed \$20 million for the PFA Grant Program, \$10 million for the SFISH Program, and \$6 million for the Adaptive Management Program. This funding will help ensure the PFA achieves its noble goals across Oregon.

Sincerely,

Jim Kelly, Board Chair

Brenda McComb, Board Member

Liz Agpaoa, Board Member

Heath Curtiss, Board Member

Joe Justice, Board Member

Ben Deumling, Board Member