



**Oregon Board of Forestry**  
Wednesday, January 7, 2026  
Public Meeting Agenda

Revised  
December 23, 2025

### Public Meeting Information

The meeting will be open to the public, allowing for both in-person and virtual attendance. An opportunity for the public to provide live testimony will be available. Instructions to sign up for a live testimony slot can be found on our website by following the link below.

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/board/Pages/bofmeetings.aspx>

Written testimony may be submitted by emailing the following address:

[boardofforestry@odf.oregon.gov](mailto:boardofforestry@odf.oregon.gov) and will be accepted prior to the meeting date and up to two weeks after the meeting has ended. Submissions should include meeting date and agenda item number and topic header with the written submission.

#### In-Person Location

Oregon Department of Forestry  
2600 State Street, Building C  
Salem, Oregon 97310

#### Virtual Meeting Link

<https://www.youtube.com/c/OregonDepartmentofForestry>

*\*\* General meeting information can be found on pages 5 & 6 of this agenda \*\**

**Wednesday, January 7, 2026**

## Consent Agenda

### A. Committee for Family Forestlands Appointments and Reappointments

*Mike Kroon, Deputy Chief Forest Resources*

The Committee for Family Forestlands (CFF) is an advisory committee to the Board of Forestry (Board) and the Oregon Department of Forestry (Department). This agenda item requests the appointment of a voting member to represent the environmental community.

[Decision Item](#)

### B. Umatilla County Rangeland Fire Protection Association Formation – Request for Hearing

*Levi Hopkins, Deputy Chief of Policy and Planning – Fire Protection*

Division is Requesting approval to move forward with a public hearing on the formation of a new Rangeland Fire Protection Association in Umatilla County.

[Decision Item](#)

**Oregon Department of Forestry**  
2600 State St., Salem, OR 97310  
<https://www.oregon.gov/odf>



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## **C. Adaptive Management Program Committee Appointment & Reappointments**

*Josh Barnard, Division Chief - Forest Resources Division*

*Terry Frueh, Adaptive Management Program Coordinator – Forest Resources Division*

Terms for two AMPC members are expiring. The AMPC is seeking a board decision to renew one appointment and appoint a new member for the organization.

[Decision Item](#)

## **D. Adoption of an Administrative Deadline Modification in Rule**

*Josh Barnard, Division Chief - Forest Resources Division*

*Nicole Stapp, Policy Advisor – Forest Resources Division*

In September 2025, the Board of Forestry (Board) directed the Oregon Department of Forestry (Department) to file a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to modify the deadline for the publication of maps related to perennial flow of streams. The Department is now returning for a Board decision regarding adoption of the proposed rule.

[Decision Item](#)

## **E. Legislative Report on Private Forest Accord Implementation**

*Josh Barnard, Division Chief - Forest Resources Division*

*Nicole Stapp, Policy Advisor – Forest Resources Division*

Senate Bill 1501 (2022) requires the Board of Forestry (Board) to submit annual progress reports regarding their implementation of the Private Forest Accord (PFA) to the legislative committees related to forestry. This agenda item seeks board approval to submit the report included as Attachment 1 as the statutorily required report.

[Information Item](#)

## **F. Winchester Decertification**

*Mike Wilson, State Forests Division Chief*

*Eric Tenbrook, Lands Specialist*

The Board of Forestry is requested to make findings to decertify the Winchester parcels from being eligible Common School forest Lands to complete the statutory requirements to return these lands to their original status and ensure all applicable procedures are addressed pursuant to ORS 530.470(2).

[Decision Item](#)

## **G. Protection Division Rulemaking**

*Ryan Miller, Protection Division Senior Policy Analyst*

2025 Legislative session, Senate Bill 83, repealed statutes relating to wildfire hazard designations. The included set of rules are being repealed and/or amended to reflect the statute changes. House Bill 3349 added “mitigation” to activities allowed in addition to “prevention” and “suppression” that are already Identified.

[Decision Item](#)



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## Action and Information

### 9:00 AM 1. Welcome

*Vice-Chair McComb, Interim State Forester Skinner and members of the Board*

This item serves as an opportunity for the Board Chair to offer housekeeping tips and best practices, as well as opening comments from the Board Chair, agency director and members of the Board.

[This is an information item](#)

### 9:10 AM 2. Consent Agenda Items

*Vice-Chair McComb*

*Members of the Board*

This item serves as an opportunity for the Board of Forestry to review and consider items presented on the Consent Agenda for the Chair, Secretary, and Board members.

[This is a decision item](#)

### 9:15 AM 3. Public Forum

*Members of the Public*

Sign-up instructions for providing public comments are posted on the Board's meeting webpage. Comments are limited to three minutes or less and are reserved for remarks on information items and topics off the agenda.

[This is an information item](#)

### 9:30 AM 4. Oregon Forest Resource Institute Presentation Values and Beliefs Survey

*Jim Paul, OFRI Executive Director*

[This is an information item](#)

### 10:30 AM BREAK

### 11:00 AM 5. 2025 Forest Practices Operator of the Year Awards

*Greg Wagenblast, Policy Analyst – Forest Resources Division*

*Scott Swearingen, Field Support Unit Manager – Forest Resources Division*

The Board of Forestry recognizes Operators of the Year. This year's award recipients are Boulder Ridge, LLC, Weber Logging and Construction, Inc. and Quality Excavation, Inc.

[This is an information item](#)



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**12:00 PM LUNCH**

**1:00 PM 6. Federal Executive Orders and United States Wildland Fire Service**

*John Tokarczk, Resource Planning Manager*

*Michael Curran, Fire Protection Division Chief*

Oregon Department of Forestry staff will provide the Board of Forestry and overview of federal executive orders and agency consolidations and potential impacts to ODF business.

[This is an information item](#)

**1:30 PM 7. Closing Comments**

*Vice-Chair McComb*

*Members of the Board*

This item serves as an opportunity for the Board Chair to mop-up outstanding business and allow for closing comments from any of the Board members.

[This is an information item](#)

**1:45 PM ADJOURN**



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**NOTE:** Times listed on the agenda are approximate. At the discretion of the chair, the time and order of agenda items—including the addition of breaks—may change to maintain meeting flow. The board will hear public testimony [\*excluding marked items] and engage in discussion before proceeding to the next item. \* A single asterisk preceding the item number marks a work session, and public testimony/comment will not be accepted.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY:** The Board of Forestry places great value on information received from the public. The Board will only hold public testimony at the meeting for decision items. The Board generally accepts written comments on all agenda items except consent agenda items, other items specifically identified in the agenda and Work Session items [see explanation below]. Those wishing to testify or present information to the Board are encouraged to:

- Provide written summaries of lengthy, detailed information.
- Remember that the value of your comments is in the substance, not length.
- For coordinated comments to the Board, endorse rather than repeat the testimony of others.
- To ensure the Board will have an opportunity to review and consider your testimony before the meeting, please send comments no later than 72 hours before the meeting date. If submitted after this window of time the testimony will be entered into the public record but may not be viewed by the Board until after the meeting.
- To provide oral comments at an in-person meeting, register in advance using the information in the meeting agenda and sign in at the information table in the meeting room when you arrive. For virtual meetings, follow the signup instructions provided in the meeting agenda.
- Commenters have two to three minutes to make their comments. Comment on decision items is limited to 30 minutes per decision item.

Written comments for public testimony provide a valuable reference and may be submitted before, during, or up to two weeks after the meeting for consideration by the Board. Send to [boardofforestry@odf.oregon.gov](mailto:boardofforestry@odf.oregon.gov). All comments to the Board will become part of the official record of the meeting and made available to the public on the Board's webpage.

**WORK SESSIONS:** Certain agenda topics may be marked with an asterisk indicating a "Work Session" item. Work Sessions provide the Board with an opportunity to receive information and/or make decisions after considering previous public comments and staff recommendations. No new public comment will be taken. However, the Board may choose to ask questions of the audience to clarify issues raised.



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**GENERAL INFORMATION:** For regularly scheduled meetings, the Board's agenda is posted on the web at <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/board/Pages/bofmeetings.aspx> two weeks before the meeting date. During that time, circumstances may dictate a revision to the agenda, either in the sequence of items to be addressed or in the time of day the item is to be presented. The Board will make every attempt to follow its published schedule and requests your indulgence when that is not possible.

If you are experiencing technical issues or require accommodations, email [boardofforestry@odf.oregon.gov](mailto:boardofforestry@odf.oregon.gov) or contact the Board Support Office at (503) 302-6344. To provide the broadest range of services, lead-time is needed to make the necessary arrangements for offsite locations. If special materials, services, or assistance is required, such as a sign language interpreter, assistive listening device, or large print material, please contact our Public Affairs Office at least seven working days before the meeting via telephone at 503-945-7200 or fax at 503-945-7212.

Agenda Item No.:	A
Work Plan:	Forest Resources Division
Presentation Title:	Committee for Family Forestlands Appointment
Date of Presentation:	January 7, 2026
Contact Information:	Mike Kroon, Deputy Division Chief, Forest Resources Division, <a href="mailto:mike.e.kroon@odf.oregon.gov">mike.e.kroon@odf.oregon.gov</a>

**SUMMARY**

The Committee for Family Forestlands (CFF) is an advisory committee to the Board of Forestry (Board) and the Oregon Department of Forestry (Department). This agenda item requests the appointment of a voting member to represent the environmental community. This is a decision item.

**BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS**

Oregon Revised Statute 526.016 provides the Board the authority to establish standing committees. Per the CFF charter, the purpose of the committee is to advise the Board and the Department in matters relating to family forestlands. This includes but is not limited to advising on maintaining a viable family forestland base, maintaining and enhancing the contributions that family forestland owners make, timber availability, the protection and enhancement of watersheds and fish and wildlife habitat and the impact of forest policies have on family forestland owners.

The committee is comprised of seven voting members. Four family forestland owners; one from each Department regional area and one at-large, one forest industry representative, one environmental community representative and one citizen-at-large. Voting members are appointed by the Board and serve three-year terms with a maximum of two consecutive terms. The committee also includes up to six ex-officio members whom are appointed by the committee for two-year terms with no maximum number of terms. More information on the committee can be found on the committee’s webpage of the Department website [here](#).

The voting member position for an environmental community representative is vacant. The Department has identified Becca Shively as a candidate to fill this position. Her biography is included in Attachment 1.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Department recommends the Board appoint Becca Shively as a voting member of the CFF for a three-year term beginning January 2026.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1) New Member Nomination Biography

**Committee for Family Forestlands**  
**New Member Nomination Biography**

**Becca Shively**

Becca is the Senior Wildfire Program Manager for Sustainable Northwest (SNW). Her team manages post-wildfire recovery initiatives across the Pacific Northwest, including a large-scale landowner assistance program offering comprehensive technical and financial services to family forestland owners. Prior to joining Sustainable Northwest, Becca held positions with several agencies in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as well as with Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition and Portland Parks & Recreation. She holds a B.A. in Political Science and International Studies from the University of Oregon and a Masters in Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.



Agenda Item No.:	B
Work Plan:	Fire Protection Work Plan
Topic:	Ongoing Topic: Rangeland Protection Association Formation
Presentation Title:	Hearing Request for a Rangeland Protection Association in Umatilla County
Date of Presentation:	January 7, 2026
Contact Information:	Levi Hopkins, Wildfire Prevention and Policy Manager (503) 949-3572, <a href="mailto:Levi.a.hopkins@odf.oregon.gov">Levi.a.hopkins@odf.oregon.gov</a>

## **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this agenda item is to obtain Board approval to proceed with a public hearing on the subject of providing protection from fire for rangelands in Umatilla County to form the North Pendleton RFPA.

## **CONTEXT**

This is part of the Department's ongoing effort, pursuant to ORS 477.320, to assist rural communities in eastern Oregon to develop wildland fire protection coverage in areas that are currently unprotected.

Landowners from Umatilla County provided a letter (Attachment 1) requesting the Board to hold a public hearing on the subject of providing protection from fire for rangelands in the vicinity of Pendleton, Oregon. (Attachment 2).

## **BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

Rangelands in eastern Oregon present a concern to Forest Protection Districts because of the lack of fire protection. Fires starting on these lands, left uncontrolled, have frequently threatened, or spread to forestlands protected by the Department. This creates a dilemma for the district and potential use of district resources on unprotected lands that do not financially support the protection district.

The 2004 Fire Program Review identified assisting local communities in developing fire protection on unprotected lands as a high priority. Rangeland Protective Associations have been formed in Ashwood-Antelope, Bakeoven-Shaniko, Blue Mountain, Brothers Hampton, Burnt River, Crane, Fields-Andrews, Frenchglen, Gateway, Greater Pine Valley, High Desert, Ironside, Jordan Valley, Juntura, Lone Pine, Lookout Glasgow, North Harney, Post Paulina, Silver Creek, Twickenham, Vale, Wagontire, Warner Valley, WC Ranches, and Wheeler County Fire & Rescue.

The area the private landowners are considering for fire protection is interspersed with other land management agencies.

Although the emphasis is protection of private lands, opportunities will exist for partnerships and mutual aid agreements with other entities to strengthen wildland fire protection throughout the area.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Department recommends the Board approve the landowners' request to hold a public hearing on the subject of providing protection from fire for rangelands in Umatilla County.

## **NEXT STEPS**

The Department will hold a public hearing and determine the support for providing fire protection in Umatilla County, Oregon. If there is sufficient support, a request will be made from the landowners to the Board to determine whether the rangeland should be included within a protection system.

If the Board determines that the rangeland should be included in a rangeland protection system, the Board, in cooperation with interested persons, will establish the extent and type of protection to be provided. Such protection shall be commensurate with the values and uses of the rangeland to be protected.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

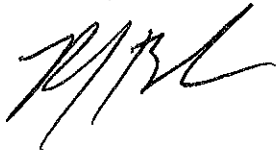
- (1) Letter from representatives of the proposed North Pendleton RFPA.
- (2) Map of Proposed North Pendleton RFPA

Dear Ms. Kate Skinner,

I have been working with Allison Rayburn and Steve McKay to form a new Rangeland Fire Protection Association in Umatilla County. Enclosed is the notice for public hearing. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me via email at [randy@bracherfarms.com](mailto:randy@bracherfarms.com) or my phone is 541-379-6946.

Respectfully,

Randy Bracher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R/Br'.

80318 S. Cold Springs Rd.  
Pendleton, OR 97801

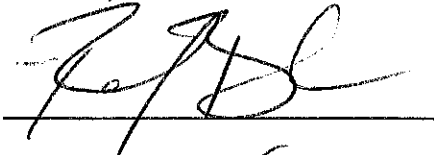
October 6, 2025

Ms. Kate Skinner, State Forester  
Oregon Board of Forestry  
2600 State Street  
Salem, OR 97310

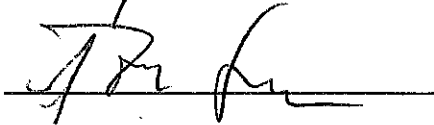
Dear Ms. Skinner,

As the designated representatives of rangeland/crop landowners in Umatilla County, we request that the Oregon Board of Forestry hold a public hearing on the subject of providing protection from fire for 115,000 acres of private rangeland/crop lands in the vicinity of Juniper Canyon, South Cold Springs Road and Highway 37 in Umatilla County pursuant to ORS 477.320.

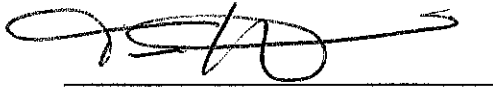
Sincerely,



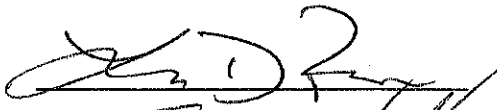
Randy Bracher



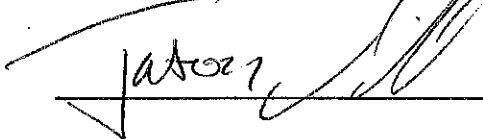
Tom Sorey



Tanner Hawkins

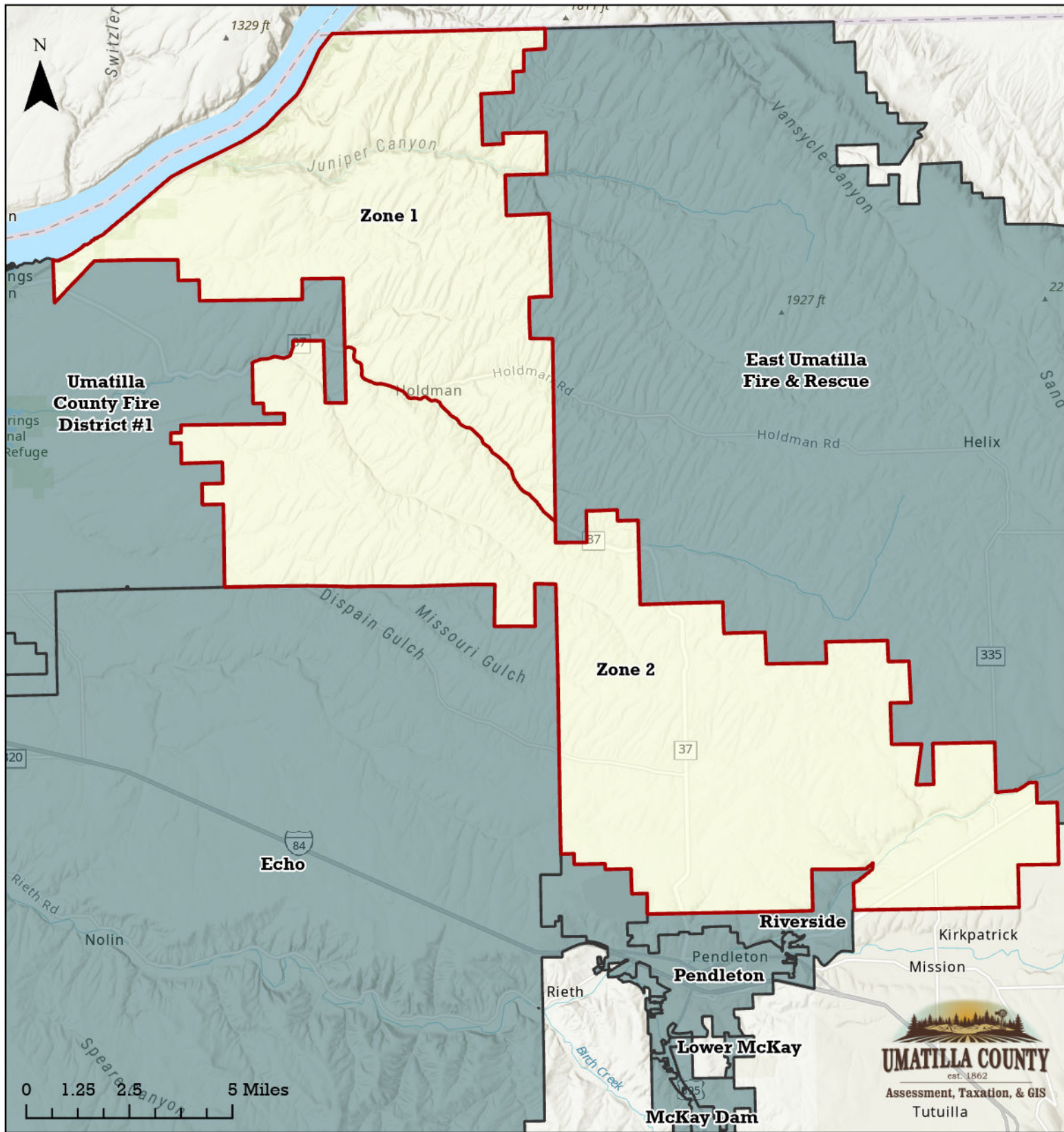


Larry Parker

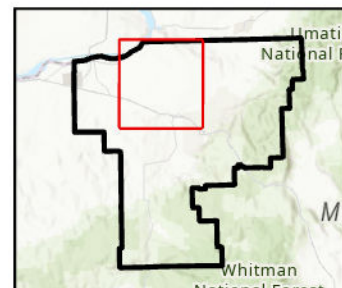


Jason Hill

# Proposed Rangeland Fire Protection Association Boundary



- RFPA Proposal
- Existing Fire Districts



This map was prepared for Assessment & Taxation purposes only and was NOT prepared nor is suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes



Agenda Item No.:	C
Work Plan:	Forest Resources Division
Presentation Title:	Adaptive Management Program Committee Appointment and Reappointments
Date of Presentation:	January 7, 2026
Contact Information:	Josh Barnard, Division Chief, Forest Resources Division, ODF, <a href="mailto:Josh.W.Barnard@odf.oregon.gov">Josh.W.Barnard@odf.oregon.gov</a> ; Terry Frueh, Adaptive Management Program Coordinator, Forest Resources Division, ODF, <a href="mailto:Terry.Frueh@odf.oregon.gov">Terry.Frueh@odf.oregon.gov</a>

**SUMMARY**

This agenda item is for the Board to appoint a new member to the Adaptive Management Program Committee (AMPC) and renew the terms of two additional AMPC members. This is a decision item.

**CONTEXT**

The purpose of the Adaptive Management Program is to help inform future Forest Practice Act rulemaking and support an application for a programmatic habitat conservation plan, and subsequent incidental take permit. The goal of the program is to use best available science to assess rule effectiveness for protecting several fish and other aquatic species. The program requires the AMPC to direct work, set the research agenda for the program, and make recommendations to the Board based on research findings.

**BACKGROUND**

Following mediated discussions between conservation and forest industry groups (i.e., Private Forest Accord), the legislature adopted the accord recommendations through Senate Bills 1501 and 1502, and House Bill 4055. Senate Bill 1501 incorporated by reference the Private Forest Accord Report dated February 2, 2022. The PFA Report further detailed the recommended changes to the Forest Practices Act and rules which later established the Adaptive Management Program.

**ANALYSIS**

Senate Bill 1501 names ten voting and three non-voting organizations on the AMPC. The department solicited names from these organizations to serve as committee members and were asked to consider diversity in the nominations. The Board approved the initial list of AMPC nominees at their November 16, 2022, meeting. Representatives for the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC), Oregon Wild, and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) terms expire on December 31, 2025. AOC and DEQ request that their respective representatives' terms be renewed. Biographies of each AMPC member can be found [here](#). Oregon Wild conversed with their fellow organizations named in ORS 527.732(3)(d), and they collectively agreed to transfer their representative to Trout Unlimited (TU). TU nominates Dr. Haley Ohms and Pablo San Emeterio, with the former being their first choice.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The department recommends that:

1. The Board reappoint the following people to the AMPC:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Term expires December 31 of:</u>
Will Tucker	AOC	2029
Josh Seeds	DEQ	2029

2. The Board appoint Dr. Haley Ohms of Trout Unlimited to a four-year term that expires December 31, 2029.

**ATTACHMENT**

1. Biographies for Dr. Haley Ohms and Pablo San Emeterio.

## **Biographies of Trout Unlimited nominees to the Adaptive Management Program Committee**

### **Trout Unlimited first choice: Dr. Haley Ohms**

Dr. Haley Ohms brings more than 20 years of experience in salmonid ecology and conservation. She earned her M.S. in Fisheries Science (2012) and Ph.D. in Integrative Biology with a minor in Statistics (2017) from Oregon State University, where she studied how habitat variation supports population diversity. Dr. Ohms has led research at NOAA's Southwest Fisheries Science Center and UC Santa Cruz, focusing on steelhead movements, habitat use, and population responses to water withdrawals. At Trout Unlimited, she applies her expertise in data analysis, population modeling, and field-based research to advance science-driven conservation. She has also served on advisory committees for the Columbia Basin Partnership and the Nuyakuk Hydropower permitting process, providing scientific guidance on aquatic resource management.



### **Trout Unlimited second choice: Pablo San Emeterio**

Pablo San Emeterio joined the Oregon Wild team in August 2025 as Oregon Wild's Western Oregon Field Attorney. He attended Lewis and Clark Law School where he received a certificate in Environmental and Natural Resources Law upon graduating in 2022. After law school, Pablo



worked in the immigration field and for a local government agency where he gained experience in environmental, property, public contracting, and administrative law. Now at Oregon Wild, Pablo will focus his work on issues affecting Oregon's forests at both the state and federal level.

Agenda Item No.:	D
Work Plan:	Forest Resources Division
Topic:	Adoption of an Administrative Deadline Modification in Rule
Date of Presentation:	January 7, 2026
Contact Information:	Josh Barnard, Division Chief, Forest Resources Division, ODF, <a href="mailto:josh.w.barnard@odf.oregon.gov">josh.w.barnard@odf.oregon.gov</a> , Nicole Stapp, Policy Advisor, Forest Resources Division, ODF, <a href="mailto:nicole.l.stapp@odf.oregon.gov">nicole.l.stapp@odf.oregon.gov</a>

## **SUMMARY**

This is a decision item. In September 2025, the Board of Forestry (Board) directed the Oregon Department of Forestry (Department) to file a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to modify the deadline for the publication of maps related to perennial flow of streams. The Department is now returning for a Board decision regarding adoption of the proposed rule.

## **CONTEXT**

In 2020, conservation and forest industry groups offered to revise the Forest Practices Act (FPA) and forest practice rules through a memorandum of understanding to include mediated discussions, known as the Private Forest Accord (PFA). Later that year, the Legislature passed [SB 1602](#) which set helicopter pesticide application requirements and required the Governor to facilitate mediated sessions between conservation and forest industry groups. As a product of this collaborative process, the [2022 PFA Report](#) was drafted and released by an author group comprised of representatives from those discussions. During the 2022 Legislative Session, [SB 1501](#) and [SB 1502](#) passed making substantial changes to the FPA and requiring the Board to incorporate the recommendations of the PFA Report into the forest practice rules through the adoption of a single rule package to support the development of the PFA habitat conservation plan (HCP) and prescribed two additional rulemaking efforts.

## **BACKGROUND**

Within the PFA single rule package adopted by the Board in November 2022 and effective January 2024, Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 629-635-0200 (18) set the process and timeline for the Department to publish maps related to perennial streamflow. OAR 629-635-0200 (18)(b) involves developing a model and publishing maps sufficient for regulatory purposes for perennial streamflow as an option for stream classification by July 1, 2025.

Prior to the July 1, 2025 deadline, and after significant work, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Department determined a sufficient streamflow model was not available to be implemented and are collaborating to identify a viable model. However, the rule does not provide a process for initiating Phase 2 if the original deadline is not met.

At the September 2025 board meeting, the Department and ODFW presented the Board with additional background information and requested the Board consider rule modifications to set a new deadline of July 1, 2026, and add the word “the” before “Department of Fish and Wildlife”. The proposed rule reads:

“OAR 629-635-0200- (18)(b) Phase 2 Model. When advised by the Department of Fish and Wildlife that an approved flow duration model sufficient for regulatory purposes is

available, the State Forester shall promptly publish the information, including the modeled end, in all maps and the department's reporting and notification system, and in no event later than July 1, 2026."

The Board directed the Department to file a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and determined the type of forest practice rule being proposed.

## **ANALYSIS**

To implement the Board's September 2025 direction, the Department filed a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) which was posted in the October 2025 Oregon Bulletin. Additionally, the Department took the following actions:

- Issued a [news release](#);
- Posted information on the [ODF rulemaking webpage](#) and placed a banner announcing the comment window at the top of ODF webpages for the duration of the comment period;
- Provided direct notices to those signed up to receive rulemaking notices either electronically or via postal mail, and to legislators;
- Held a public comment period from October 1 to October 31, 2025; and
- Conducted a rulemaking hearing on October 21, 2025.

The Department did not receive written public comments and had one member of the public attend the rulemaking hearing; however, they only asked a clarifying question and did not wish to submit public comment.

In addition to rulemaking efforts, the Department and ODFW have continued work to identify a viable model. The agencies have been pursuing two options. While federal work that could result in potential models has been delayed, the Department has successfully executed an agreement with a contractor to provide the modeled end, and results for joint evaluation by the Department and ODFW are anticipated in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2026.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Department recommends the Board adopt the proposed rule as written in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and presented in the background section of this staff report.

## **NEXT STEPS**

If the Board adopts the proposed rule, the Department will file the rule action with the Secretary of State's Office.

Agenda Item No.:	E
Work Plan:	Forest Resources Division
Topic:	Legislative Report on Private Forest Accord Implementation
Date of Presentation:	January 7, 2026
Contact Information:	Josh Barnard, Division Chief, Forest Resources Division, ODF, <a href="mailto:josh.w.barnard@odf.oregon.gov">josh.w.barnard@odf.oregon.gov</a> , Nicole Stapp, Policy Advisor, Forest Resources Division, ODF, <a href="mailto:nicole.l.stapp@odf.oregon.gov">nicole.l.stapp@odf.oregon.gov</a>

## **SUMMARY**

Senate Bill 1501 (2022) requires the Board of Forestry (Board) to submit annual progress reports regarding their implementation of the Private Forest Accord (PFA) to the legislative committees related to forestry. This agenda item seeks board approval to submit the report included as Attachment 1 as the statutorily required report.

## **BACKGROUND**

In 2020, conservation and forest industry groups offered to revise the Forest Practices Act (FPA) and the forest practice rules through a memorandum of understanding to include mediated discussions, known as the Private Forest Accord (PFA). Later that year, the Legislature passed [SB 1602](#) which set helicopter pesticide application requirements and required the Governor to facilitate mediated sessions between conservation and forest industry groups. As a product of this collaborative process, the [2022 PFA Report](#) was drafted and released by an author group comprised of representatives from those discussions. During the 2022 Legislative Session, [SB 1501](#) and [SB 1502](#) passed making substantial changes to the FPA and requiring the Board to incorporate the recommendations of the PFA Report into the forest practice rules through the adoption of a single rule package to support the development of a habitat conservation plan and prescribed two additional rulemaking efforts.

## **ANALYSIS**

The report in Attachment 1 captures the Board’s statutory obligations, the status of each, and any related 2025 activities. While the report only captures 2025 activities, the Department intends to assist the Board in completing the remaining statutory obligations by:

- Continuing to draft the annual implementation progress reports for the Board’s approval; and
- Preparing the required report regarding incidental take permits and petitions for the Board’s consideration and approval, once the outcomes are known.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Department recommends the Board direct staff to submit the report in Attachment 1 to the relevant legislative committees in the manner prescribed by law.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1) Private Forest Accord Implementation: 2025 Progress Report



# Private Forest Accord Implementation: 2025 Progress Report

## Background

In February 2020, conservation and forest industry groups offered to revise the Forest Practices Act (FPA) and forest practice rules through a memorandum of understanding known as the Private Forest Accord (PFA). In June 2020, the Legislature adopted Senate Bill (SB) 1602 which increased helicopter spray buffers; directed rulemaking for salmon, steelhead, and bull trout streams in the Siskiyou Region; and set communication laws for spraying pesticides by helicopter. The bill set the accord timeline and led to mediated sessions between representatives of the forest industry and representatives of environmental interest resulting in the PFA Report.

In March 2022, the Legislature adopted the PFA Report recommendations through SBs 1501 and 1502, and House Bill 4055. SB 1501 (2022) amongst other things, made substantial changes to the FPA, required the recommendations of the PFA Report be incorporated into the forest practice rules, requires the pursuit of incidental take permits (ITPs) through a habitat conservation plan (HCP) and required the Board of Forestry (BOF) to undertake rulemaking related to tethered logging and post-disturbance harvest.

Additionally, SB 1501 (2022) requires the BOF to submit annual progress reports regarding PFA implementation to the legislative committees related to forestry. This report captures the BOF's statutory obligations, the status of each, and any related 2025 activities.

## Implementation Activities

Statutory Requirement	Status	Deadline	2025 Activities
Adopt a single rule package consistent with the PFA Report	Complete	11/30/2022	
First appoint Adaptive Management Program Committee members	Complete	11/30/2022	
Submit a proposed draft HCP	Complete	12/31/2022	
If needed, make minor amendments to single rule package	Complete	7/1/2023	
Appoint the first voting members of the Independent Research and Science Team	Complete	Not Specified	
Report implementation progress to legislative committees	Complete	Annually	A report was submitted on 2024 activities on January 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2025.
Initiate tethered logging rulemaking	Complete	3/17/2025	Rulemaking was initiated on March 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2025.
Complete post-disturbance harvest rulemaking	Complete	11/30/2025	Rules were adopted on September 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2025.
Report to the legislative committees whether ITPs were issued by 12/31/2027 & if a petition was received from a PFA Report author	Not Started	2/1/2028 or earlier	

**For more information contact** Nicole Stapp, Forest Resources Division Policy Advisor at [Nicole.l.stapp@odf.oregon.gov](mailto:Nicole.l.stapp@odf.oregon.gov), or Derrick Wheeler, ODF Legislative Coordinator at [Derrick.wheeler@odf.oregon.gov](mailto:Derrick.wheeler@odf.oregon.gov).



Agenda Item No.:	F
Work Plan:	State Forests Work Plan
Topic:	Status of Parcel in Coos County as Common School Forest Land
Presentation Title:	Decertification Actions by ODF on Coos County Common School Forest Land
Date of Presentation:	January 7, 2025
Contact Information:	Mike Wilson, Chief - State Forests Division 503-945-7351; Michael.Wilson@odf.oregon.gov

**SUMMARY**

The Board of Forestry is requested to make findings to complete the decertification and redesignation of approximately 80 acres of Common School Forestlands within Coos County, effective July 1, 2026 or earlier if conditions allow, in order to complete the statutory requirements to return these lands to their original status and ensure all applicable procedures are addressed pursuant to ORS 530.470(2). The State Land Board voted to remove the designation of these lands as Common School Forest Lands pursuant to the statute at its December 3, 2025 meeting.

**CONTEXT**

Lands owned by the State of Oregon and under the jurisdiction of the Department of State Lands (“DSL”) that are “primarily suited for the growing of timber and other forest products” are required to be designated and set apart as “Common School Forest Lands” (“CSFL”) by the Department of State Lands and the State Board of Forestry, and such lands are withdrawn from sale. ORS 530.460.

The process by which such lands are designated is through the adoption of separate board resolutions of the State Land Board and the Board of Forestry, describing the lands to be set aside as CSFL. ORS 530.480. A copy of each board resolution, certified by the Director of DSL and the State Forester, respectively, together with a description of the lands involved, are to be filed with the Secretary of State. *Id.*

Periodically as necessary, DSL and the Board of Forestry were and are to designate and set aside CSFL “as rapidly as forestry data and information are obtained ... of the lands eligible for dedication under ORS 530.450 to ORS 530.520.” ORS 530.470(1).

After such designations, the State Forester, under supervision of the Board, was and is authorized to manage the CSFL lands. ORS 530.490.

These designated lands “may, at any time, be returned to their original status *by similar actions of said agencies*, if said lands are to be used for higher and better use for the general public, including the sale of said lands where lawful.” ORS 530.470(2) (emphasis added). This has consistently been done by separate complimentary resolutions of the State Land Board and the Board of Forestry. *See* ORS 530.480.

Under the Interagency Agreement between the Department of State Lands and the Oregon Forestry Department, Section 7, Common School Forest Lands so designated by each board and committed to the management of ODF are defined as “certified” lands and when removed from ODF management, are defined as “decertified” lands.

## **BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

Approximately 26,170 acres of DSL forestlands are managed by ODF, including the 80-acre Winchester uplands located on the southeast boundary of the Reserve. The Reserve is a 7,000-acre site on Oregon’s southern coast overseen by DSL and managed for long-term research, education, recreation, and the protection of natural and cultural resources. ODF had previously planned timber harvests on the Winchester property; however, the discovery of marbled murrelet activity, an endangered species, put harvest plans on hold and ODF has initially planned this property to be included as an HCA area in ODF’s draft plans and will remain in a conservation status upon transfer. Since 2022, the Reserve has pursued acquisition of the Winchester property. In December 2023, the Land Board authorized due diligence and funding efforts for the transfer. Earlier in 2025, the Reserve was awarded a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to fund the purchase and transfer of the Winchester property from the Common School Fund to the Reserve.

DSL relates that the transfer to the Reserve enhances DSL’s strategic goals by:

- Generating revenue for the Common School Fund,
- Supporting a thriving Oregon through habitat restoration and resilience, and
- Expanding opportunities for research and stewardship at the Reserve.

As a result of this planned transfer, continued ODF management of the property is no longer necessary.

ODF Staff concurs with the DSL Staff Report to the State Land Board (Attachment 1) and the maps contained therein, and recommends the Board of Forestry here adopt the proposed decertification Resolution and Order consistent with the State Land Board’s December 3, 2025 action.

## **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

None.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- **The Department recommends that the Board approve the removal of the Common School Forest Land designation and the decertification of the approximately 80 acres currently designated as Common School Forest Lands in Coos County as identified on the DSL Staff Report to the State Land Board, Attachment 1 Appendix A, pursuant to the proposed Resolution and Order, Attachment 2.**

## **NEXT STEPS**

- Upon change of designation and decertification, no further action is required of the Board. The State Forester, as Secretary of the Board, is required to send a certified copy of the Resolution and Order to the Director of the Department of

State Lands and the Secretary of State pursuant to ORS 530.480, and the Interagency Agreement Exhibit of Certified lands will be amended to reflect the removal of these acres.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. DSL Staff Report to the State Land Board (December 3, 2025)
2. Proposed Resolution and Order of Board Reclassifying Common School Forest Lands



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

**Department of State Lands**

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**State Land Board**

Tina Kotek

Governor

Tobias Read

Secretary of State

Elizabeth Steiner

State Treasurer

## State Land Board

**Regular Meeting  
December 3, 2025  
Agenda Item 3**

### **SUBJECT**

Common School forestland adjacent to the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve

### **ISSUE**

Whether the State Land Board should approve the decertification of 80 acres of Oregon Department of Forestry-managed forestlands, known as Winchester property, within the Coos District to allow for acquisition of the property by the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (Reserve).

### **AUTHORITY**

- Oregon Constitution, Article VIII, Sections 2 and 5; pertaining to the Common School Fund and land management responsibilities of the State Land Board.
- ORS 273.141; relating to the nature of services provided by other agencies
- ORS 273.171; relating to the duties and authority of the Director
- ORS 530.460; relating to the designation of Common School Forest Lands
- ORS 530.470; relating to the determination of the designation of Common School Forest Lands
- ORS 530.480; relating to the filing of resolutions made by the boards

### **BACKGROUND**

For many decades, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) has managed and sustainably harvested many Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) forestlands, generating revenue for the Common School Fund through timber harvests and other forest product sales.

AGENDA ITEM F

Attachment 1

Page 1 of 3

Approximately 26,170 acres of DSL forestlands are managed by ODF, including the 80-acre Winchester uplands located on the southeast boundary of the Reserve. The Reserve is a 7,000-acre site on Oregon's southern coast overseen by DSL and managed for long-term research, education, recreation, and the protection of natural and cultural resources. ODF had previously planned timber harvests on the Winchester property; however, the discovery of marbled murrelet activity, an endangered species, put harvest plans on hold.

Since 2022, the Reserve has pursued acquisition of the Winchester property. In December 2023, the Land Board authorized due diligence and funding efforts for the transfer. Earlier in 2025, the Reserve was awarded a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to fund the purchase and transfer of the Winchester property from the Common School Fund to the Reserve.

This transaction advances the Department's strategic goals by:

- Generating revenue for the Common School Fund,
- Supporting a thriving Oregon through habitat restoration and resilience, and
- Expanding opportunities for research and stewardship at the Reserve.

As a result of this planned transfer, continued ODF management of the property is no longer necessary.

### ***Decertification and Next Steps***

The removal of this property from ODF management is a process known as decertification. Decertification of Common School forestlands requires approval by both the Land Board and the Oregon Board of Forestry. Following Land Board approval, this request will go before the Board of Forestry for final action.

The Department anticipates returning to the Land Board in late 2026 for final approval of the land sale. Work remains on mineral rights, completing a land survey, environmental analysis, and other important steps in the due diligence process.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Department recommends that the Land Board approve the decertification of the 80 acres of the Winchester uplands within ODF's Coos District, effective July 1, 2026, or earlier if conditions allow.

### **APPENDICES**

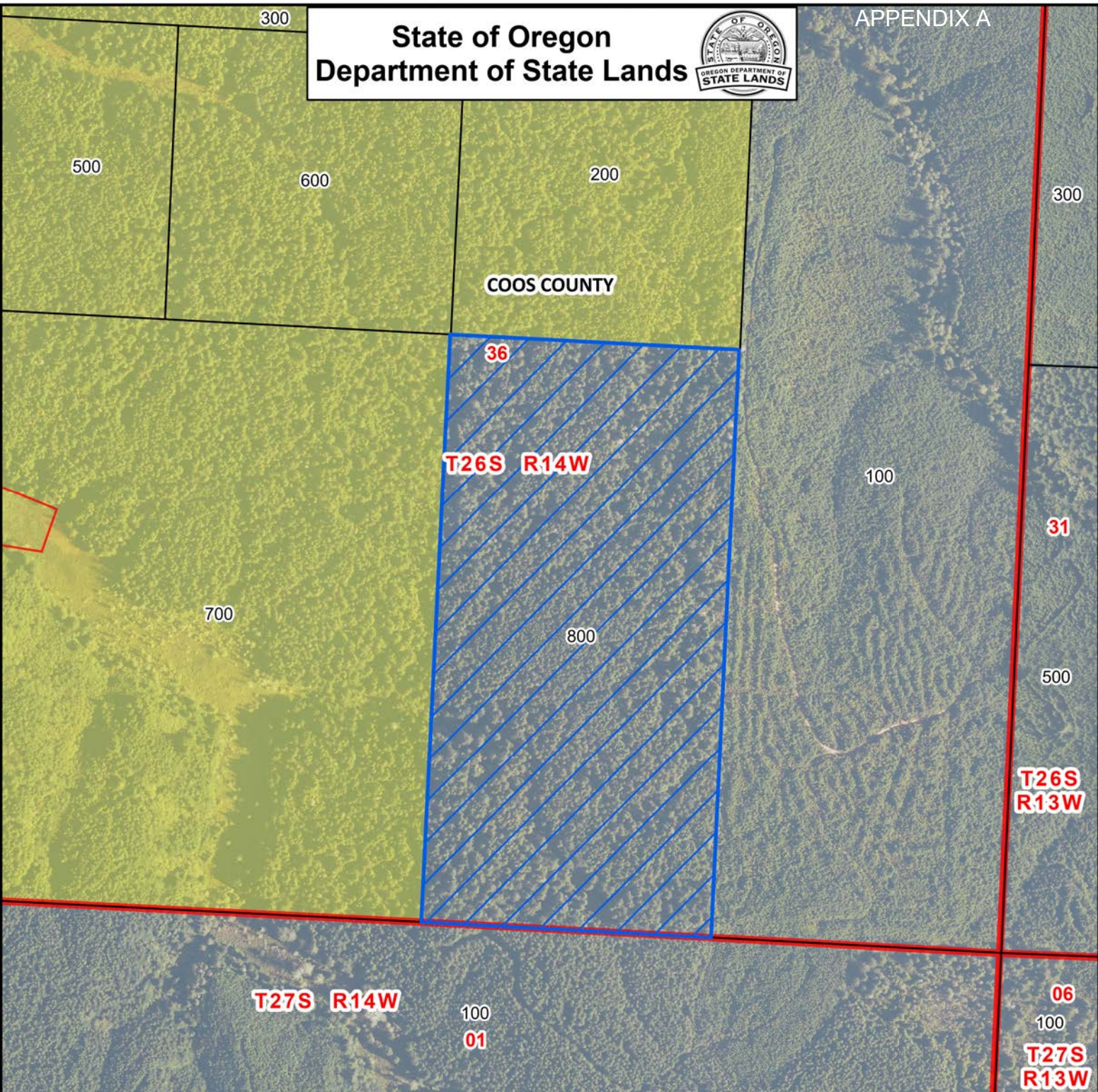
- A. Map of the Winchester Property

Agenda Item 3  
December 3, 2025  
Page 2 of 2

State of Oregon  
Department of State Lands






APPENDIX A



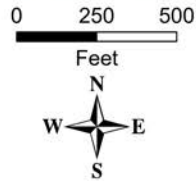
**APPENDIX A**

**64570-LS**  
**T26S, R14W Section 36, Tax Lot 800**  
**Coos County**  
**Approx. 80 Acres**

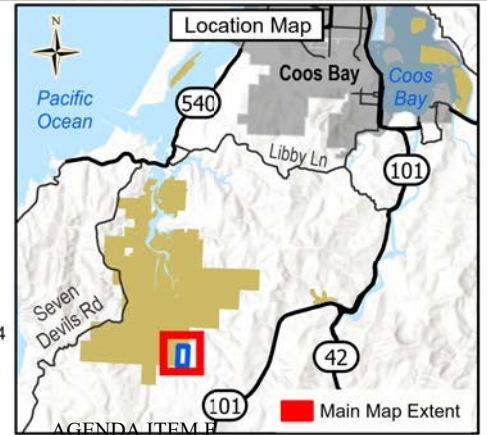
-  Winchester Property
-  Land Managed by South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
-  Tax Lot

2024 Aerial Photo

This map depicts the approximate location of a proposed authorization. This product is for informational purposes only and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.



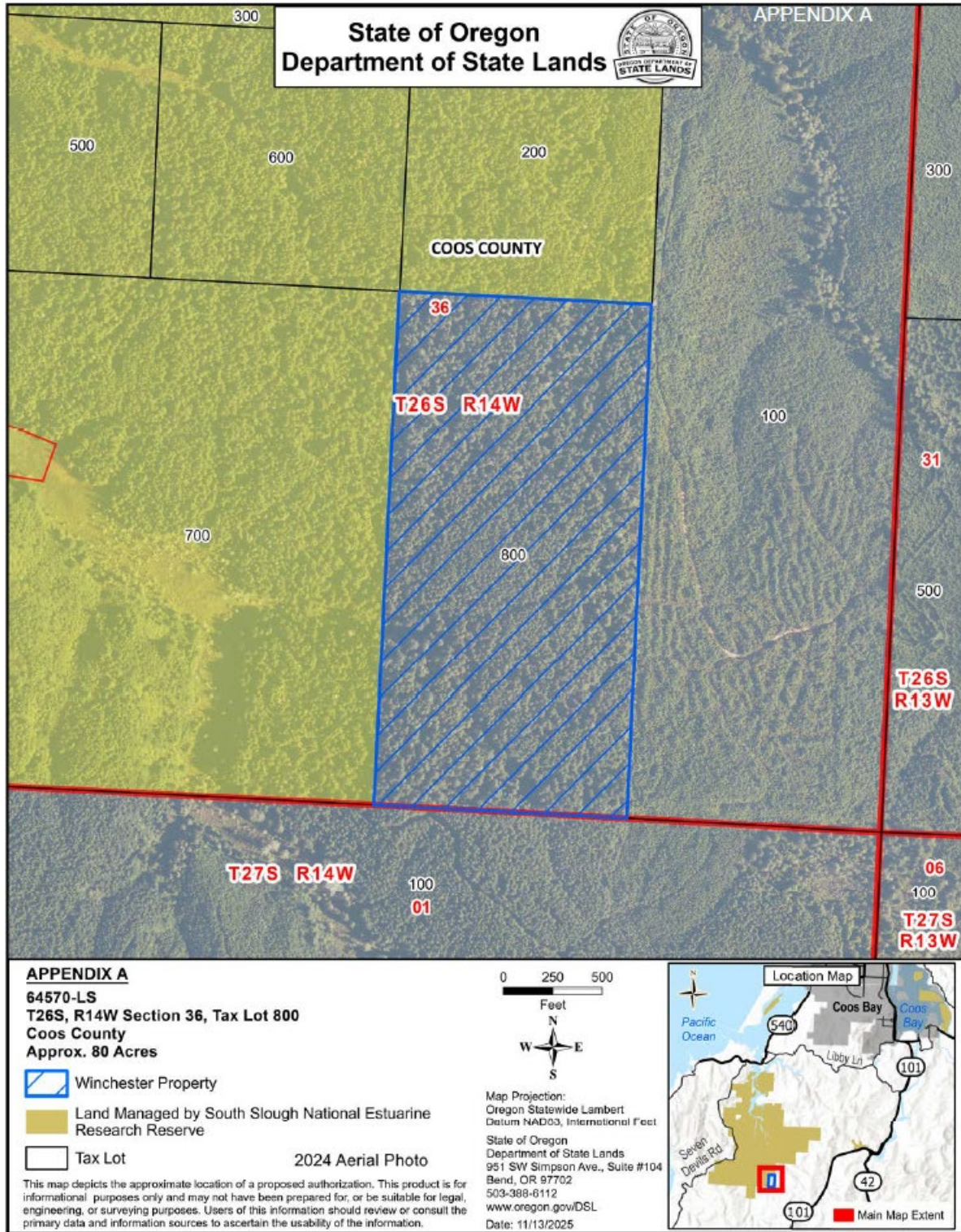
Map Projection:  
 Oregon Statewide Lambert  
 Datum NAD83, International Feet  
 State of Oregon  
 Department of State Lands  
 951 SW Simpson Ave., Suite #104  
 Bend, OR 97702  
 503-388-6112  
 www.oregon.gov/DSL  
 Date: 11/13/2025



AGENDA ITEM #



APPENDIX A  
 Map of Coos County Parcel to be Decertified



Agenda Item No.:	G
Work Plan:	Fire Protection Work Plan
Topic:	Rulemaking
Presentation Title:	Legislative Session Outcome: Protection Division Rulemaking
Date of Presentation:	January 07, 2026
Contact Information:	Ryan Miller, Protection Division-Senior Policy Analyst 541-620-0341, ryan.miller@odf.oregon.gov

**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this agenda item is to seek final approval from the Board of Forestry to adopt rules to repeal and modify rules as directed by 2025 legislation.

**CONTEXT**

The 2025 Legislature passed SB 83 and HB 3349, both amending and/or repealing Oregon Revised Statutes. The corresponding Oregon Administrative Rules must now be corrected to align with the new altered statutes.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

SB 83 repealed ORS 477.490 that established the Statewide wildfire hazard map and rules relating to it. OAR chapter 629, Division 44 is the set of rules that resulted from ORS 477.490 setting the guidelines for its implementation. With the passage of SB 83, ORS 477.490 has been fully repealed, negating the rules set forth in OAR Chapter 629, Div 44. Additionally, OAR chapter 629, Division 01 rules will be amended to remove references in procedural rules to the hazard map.

HB 3349 amended ORS 477.406 to include “mitigation” in the list of allowable activities in this statute alongside “prevention” and “suppression”. The context of this statute change is that mitigation activities are now included in cooperative contracts and agreements for forest protection. OAR chapter 629, Division 41-0100(1) and (6) must now be amended to match the referenced ORS. The word “mitigation” will be added to both (1) and (6) of this ruleset.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

- No alternatives considered

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Department recommends the Board of Forestry authorizes the Department to finalize the rulemaking processes to repeal and amend Oregon Administrative Rules as described.

**NEXT STEPS**

With BOF approval, the Department will complete the rulemaking process as described in ORS Division 183 and the Administrative Procedures Act to repeal and amend the OAR’s as described. Following the notice to the Secretary of State, a public comment period was held, as required in the APA. No comments were received.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1 attachment with draft rules.



**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**  
INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & FISCAL IMPACT

CHAPTER 629  
**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY**

**FILED**  
09/29/2025 11:53 AM  
ARCHIVES DIVISION  
SECRETARY OF STATE

FILING CAPTION: Repeal and amendment of rules relating to wildfire hazard map.

LAST DAY AND TIME TO OFFER COMMENT TO AGENCY: 10/21/2025 5:00 PM

*The Agency requests public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule's substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business.*

*A public rulemaking hearing may be requested in writing by 10 or more people, or by a group with 10 or more members, within 21 days following the publication of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the Oregon Bulletin or 28 days from the date the Notice was sent to people on the agency mailing list, whichever is later. If sufficient hearing requests are received, the notice of the date and time of the rulemaking hearing must be published in the Oregon Bulletin at least 14 days before the hearing.*

CONTACT: Ryan Miller  
541-620-0341  
ryan.miller@odf.oregon.gov

2600 State Street  
Salem, OR 97310

Filed By:  
Ryan Miller  
Rules Coordinator

**NEED FOR THE RULE(S)**

2025 Legislative session, Senate Bill 83, repealed statutes relating to wildfire hazard designations. The included set of rules are being repealed and/or amended to reflect the statute changes. House Bill 3349 added "mitigation to activities allowed in addition to "prevention" and "suppression" that are already identified.

**DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE**

2025 Senate Bill 83, House Bill 3349

**STATEMENT IDENTIFYING HOW ADOPTION OF RULE(S) WILL AFFECT RACIAL EQUITY IN THIS STATE**

There is no anticipated affect on racial equity associated with these rule changes.

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT:**

There is no anticipated fiscal and economic impact associated with these rule changes.

**COST OF COMPLIANCE:**

*(1) Identify any state agencies, units of local government, and members of the public likely to be economically affected by the rule(s). (2) Effect on Small Businesses: (a) Estimate the number and type of small businesses subject to the rule(s); (b) Describe the expected reporting, recordkeeping and administrative activities and cost required to comply with the rule(s); (c) Estimate the cost of professional services, equipment supplies, labor and increased administration required to comply with the rule(s).*

There is no anticipated cost of compliance associated with these rule changes.

**DESCRIBE HOW SMALL BUSINESSES WERE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RULE(S):**

Small businesses were not involved in the development of these rule changes.

WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE RULE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSULTED? NO IF NOT, WHY NOT?

Repeal and amendment of rules based on the repeal and/or amendment of statutes in legislation.

---

RULES PROPOSED:

629-001-0015, 629-001-0020, 629-001-0045, 629-041-0100, 629-044-1000, 629-044-1005, 629-044-1011, 629-044-1016, 629-044-1021, 629-044-1026, 629-044-1031, 629-044-1036, 629-044-1041

AMEND: 629-001-0015

RULE SUMMARY: Wildfire hazard rules repeal. Repeal reference to hazard designation appeals.

CHANGES TO RULE:

629-001-0015

Rules of Procedure for Contested Cases; Applicability ¶¶

The rules of procedure in this Division, OAR 629-001-0010 to 629-001-0055, apply to all contested cases before the board and State Forester, unless otherwise provided by law, and are in addition to the procedural requirements of the Attorney General's Model Rules adopted in 629-001-0005. Contested cases covered by these rules include, but are not limited to the following:¶¶

- (1) Appeal of civil penalties assessed under ORS 527.687;¶¶
- (2) Appeal of "any finding or order" under ORS 527.610 through 527.770 and 527.992;¶¶
- (3) Hearings requested by persons adversely affected or aggrieved by an operation requiring a written plan under ORS 527.700(3) through (9);¶¶
- (4) Appeal of temporary orders to cease further activity under ORS 527.680(3) and 527.680(4);¶¶
- (5) Appeal of repair orders issued under ORS 527.680(2)(b) and 527.690(1);¶¶
- (6) Appeal of orders prohibiting new operations under ORS 527.680(5);¶¶
- (7) Review of State Forester's proposal to conduct repair work at state expense under ORS 527.690(2);¶¶
- (8) Appeals of decisions on land exchanges under OAR 629-033-0055; and¶¶
- ~~(9) Appeals of all property assignments on the wildfire hazard map, including high hazard zones as provided under ORS 477.490(7)(d).~~

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 526.016(4), 527.687(3), 527.715

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 183.310 - 183.550

AMEND: 629-001-0020

RULE SUMMARY: Wildfire hazard rules repeal. Repeal reference to hazard designation hearings requests.

CHANGES TO RULE:

629-001-0020

Requesting Hearings ¶

- (1) All requests for hearing shall be made in writing, within the time period provided by statute or rule.¶
  - (2) All requests shall specifically state the issues to be addressed and the relief sought.¶
  - (3) Requests for hearing involving civil penalties shall comply with OAR 629-670-0310.¶
  - (4) Requests for hearing involving a finding or order of the State Forester issued under ORS 527.610 to 527.770 shall comply with OAR 629-672-0200.¶
  - (5) Requests for hearing by persons adversely affected or aggrieved by an operation approved under ORS 527.670(3) shall comply with OAR 629-672-0210.¶
  - (6) Requests for hearing involving land exchanges shall comply with OAR 629-033-0055.¶
  - ~~(7) Requests for hearing involving the wildfire hazard map shall comply with OAR 629-044-1041.~~
- Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 526.016(4), 527.687(3), 527.715  
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 183.310 - 183.550

AMEND: 629-001-0045

RULE SUMMARY: Wildfire hazard rules repeal. Repeal reference to hazard final orders.

CHANGES TO RULE:

629-001-0045

Final Orders in Contested Cases ¶¶

(1) Following hearing, the administrative law judge will prepare the record and proposed order for filing with the board as expeditiously as possible. In the case of hearings related to orders of the State Forester pursuant to ORS 527.700, the record and proposed order shall be filed with the board within five working days of the close of hearing unless an extension has been agreed to by the parties and State Forester. Except as provided in section (2) of this rule, no less than a majority of the board shall then review and consider the proposed order and record, hold a meeting or telephone conference, and take final action as provided for in this rule.¶¶

(2) If upon a determination by the board chairperson, the board cannot complete a final order within applicable statutory time limits, the chairperson may delegate authority to issue a final order to the administrative law judge.¶¶

(3) After reviewing and considering the proposed order and record, the board may do any of the following:¶¶

(a) Schedule written or oral argument from the State Forester and any party that filed exceptions to the proposed order. The board chairperson shall determine whether oral argument, written argument, or both will be permitted after consulting with the board members.¶¶

(A) Oral argument shall be allowed only if the board determines it is necessary or appropriate to assist in the proper disposition of the case, and shall be:¶¶

(i) Limited to matters raised in written exceptions; and¶¶

(ii) Conducted under such time limits as the board chairperson determines are appropriate.¶¶

(B) The board chairperson shall notify the agency and parties of the form of argument, if any, to be allowed.¶¶

(b) Remand the matter to the administrative law judge for further hearing on such issues as the board specifies, and to prepare a revised proposed order as appropriate, under OAR 137-003-0655(2).¶¶

(c) Enter a final order adopting the recommendation of the administrative law judge.¶¶

(d) Enter an amended proposed order or final order that modifies or rejects the recommendation of the administrative law judge. If the board decides to modify or reject the proposed order, the board must comply with OAR 137-003-0655 and 137-003-0665.¶¶

~~(4) Final orders regarding the wildfire hazard map will be issued in accordance with OAR 629-044-1041.~~

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 526.016(4), 527.687(3), 527.715

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 183.310 - 183.550

AMEND: 629-041-0100

RULE SUMMARY: Rule amended (1) and (6) to add "mitigation" to activities allowed.

CHANGES TO RULE:

629-041-0100

Procedures for Contracts, Agreements and Renewals ¶¶

(1) Pursuant to ORS 477.406(2), all agreements entered into by the forester or by a forest protective association, with each other, with a federal or state agency, political subdivision, corporation, responsible organization or responsible landowner or group of landowners for the prevention, mitigation, and suppression of fire shall be negotiated in accordance with the requirements and limitations of ORS 477.406 to 477.412 and this rule.¶¶

(2) All negotiations for contracts or agreements pursuant to section (1) of this rule shall be:¶¶

(a) Limited to matters provided in ORS 477.406(1).¶¶

(b) Conducted by representatives authorized to act on behalf of their organization, where applicable, and that are knowledgeable in wildland fire protection systems or a relevant specialty addressed in the contract or agreement.¶¶

(c) Conducted in good faith with the intention of maintaining a complete and coordinated forest protection system for the State of Oregon that is effective in carrying out the policies of ORS Chapter 477 and is economically efficient.¶¶

(3) Upon completion of negotiations and agreement by the parties, the contract or agreement will be timely reviewed (though not necessarily prior to its effective date) for adherence to the requirements of relevant statutes and rules according to the following:¶¶

(a) The Board shall review any base level contract or agreement between the forester and a forest protective association.¶¶

(b) The State Forester or designated representative shall review:¶¶

(A) Any contract or agreement that is supplemental to an existing base level agreement between the forester and a forest protective association; or¶¶

(B) Any contract or agreement with any other governmental agency or cooperator that affects areas outside a forest protection district or more than one forest protection district.¶¶

(c) The district warden or designated representative shall review any contract or agreement with any other governmental agency or cooperator that affects lands only within the warden's jurisdiction.¶¶

(d) Notwithstanding this section, any other applicable provision of law requiring a different standard of review or approval shall still apply.¶¶

(4) Notwithstanding section (3) of this rule, the Board may, at any time it is aware that a contract or agreement is to be negotiated under this rule, require the contract or agreement to be approved by the Board before its becoming effective.¶¶

(5) Any contract or agreement negotiated in accordance with this rule shall include a provision allowing the timely and prospective correction of deficiencies that may be found as a result of the review required in section (3) of this rule, or termination of the contract or agreement.¶¶

(6) The State Forester may advertise to solicit bids or proposals for agreements or contracts with corporations, responsible organizations, responsible landowners or groups of landowners for the prevention, mitigation, and suppression of fire on forestland or on land other than forestland, or both. With the exception of judicial review procedures, the procedures specified in OAR chapter 137, divisions 046 and 047 (2008), including protest procedures, apply to solicitations for agreements or contracts with corporations, responsible organizations, responsible landowners, or groups of landowners for the prevention, mitigation, and suppression of fire on forestland or on land other than forestland, or both, but not to agreements or contracts with federal or state agencies, political subdivisions, or forest protective associations. Judicial review of a decision by the State Forester regarding a solicitation specified in this rule is governed by the Oregon Administrative Procedures Act, ORS Chapter 183. This section applies to solicitations issued on or after February 1, 2009. The amendments to this section shall become effective on September 21, 2009.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 526.016(4), 526.041

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 477.406

REPEAL: 629-044-1000

RULE SUMMARY: Wildfire Hazard rules repeal

CHANGES TO RULE:

~~629-044-1000~~

~~Purpose ¶¶~~

~~(1) The purpose of OAR 629-044-1000 to 629-044-1040 is to implement the provisions of ORS 477.027 and ORS 477.490.¶¶~~

~~(2) The purpose of OAR 629-044-1010 to 629-044-1015 is to establish criteria by which the wildland-urban interface shall be identified and classified pursuant to ORS 477.027.¶¶~~

~~(3) The purpose of OAR 629-044-1020 to 629-044-1026 is to set forth the criteria by which a statewide wildfire hazard map must be developed and maintained pursuant to ORS 477.490.¶¶~~

~~(4) The purpose of OAR 629-044-1030 is to set forth the process for notification to property owners pursuant to ORS 477.027.¶¶~~

~~(5) The purpose of OAR 629-044-1035 is to set forth the process of integrating public input into the statewide wildfire hazard map pursuant to ORS 477.490.¶¶~~

~~(6) The purpose of OAR 629-044-1040 is to set forth the process of how a property owner or local government may appeal the assignment of wildfire hazard pursuant to ORS 477.490.~~

~~Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 477.015 - 477.027, ORS 526.016, ORS 477.490~~

~~Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 477.015 - 477.027, ORS 477.490~~

REPEAL: 629-044-1005

RULE SUMMARY: Wildfire hazard rules repeal. Definitions

CHANGES TO RULE:

~~629-044-1005~~

~~Definitions ¶¶~~

~~(1) The definitions set forth in ORS 477.001, shall apply.¶¶~~

~~(2) The following words and phrases, when used in OAR 629-044-1000 to 629-044-1040, shall mean the following:¶¶~~

~~(a) "Geographical area" means an area of land with similar characteristics that can be considered as a "unit" for the purposes of classification of the wildland-urban interface.¶¶~~

~~(b) "Intermingles with wildland or vegetative fuels" means a minimum of 50% coverage of wildland or vegetative fuels.¶¶~~

~~(c) "Meets with wildland or vegetative fuels" means located within a 1.5-mile buffer from the edge of an area greater than 2 square mile with a minimum of 75% cover of wildland or vegetative fuels.¶¶~~

~~(d) "Occluded geographical area" means an area with a minimum of one structure or other human development per 40 acres within 1.5 miles of an area greater than 1 square mile but less than 2 square miles with a minimum of 75% cover of wildland or vegetative fuels.¶¶~~

~~(e) "Other human development" means essential facilities, special occupancy structures, or hazardous facilities as defined in ORS 455.447 that support community functions, public communication, energy, or transportation.¶¶~~

~~(f) "Structure" means any building that is at least 400 square feet.¶¶~~

~~(g) "Unincorporated community" has the meaning provided in OAR Chapter 660, Division 22.¶¶~~

~~(h) "Urban growth boundary" has the meaning provided in OAR Chapter 660, Division 15.¶¶~~

~~(i) "Vegetative fuels" means plants that constitute a wildfire hazard.¶¶~~

~~(j) "Wildland fuels" means natural vegetation that occurs in an area where development is essentially non-existent, including grasslands, brushlands, rangelands, woodlands, timberlands, or wilderness. Wildland fuels are a type of vegetative fuels.¶¶~~

~~(k) "Wildfire Hazard" is a numerical value describing the likelihood and intensity of a wildfire, based on specific factors or conditions of weather, climate, topography, and vegetation, as modeled for a given pixel.¶¶~~

~~(l) "Wildland-Urban Interface" means a geographical area where structures and other human development meets or intermingles with wildland or vegetative fuels.~~

~~Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 477.015 - 477.027, ORS 526.016, ORS 477.490, ORS 477.001~~

~~Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 477.015 - 477.027, ORS 477.490~~

REPEAL: 629-044-1011

RULE SUMMARY: Wildfire Hazard rules repeal. Wildland Urban Interface Definition.

CHANGES TO RULE:

~~629-044-1011~~

~~Wildland-Urban-Interface-Identification-Criteria~~

~~(1) The Wildland-Urban-Interface is a geographic area comprised of tax lots, or portions of tax lots that includes an average density of one structure or other human development per 40 acres and either:¶¶~~

~~(a) meets with wildland or vegetative fuels; or¶¶~~

~~(b) intermingles with wildland or vegetative fuels; or¶¶~~

~~(c) is an occluded geographical area.¶¶~~

~~(2) The Wildland-Urban-Interface also includes:¶¶~~

~~(a) lands identified within an urban-growth boundary or unincorporated community boundary by local comprehensive plans that meet the criteria in (1)(a); or¶¶~~

~~(b) a planned development, within the urban-growth boundary or unincorporated communities, that is not identified in 1(a) but that is approved for development that meets the criteria in 1(a). ¶¶~~

~~(3) If multiple structures or other human developments are located on a single tax lot, then the totality will be considered a single structure or other human development.¶¶~~

~~(4) Each tax lot in the State of Oregon shall be assigned a wildfire hazard zone in accordance with 629-044-1021.~~

~~Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 477.015-027, ORS 526.016, ORS 477.490~~

~~Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 477.015-027~~

REPEAL: 629-044-1016

RULE SUMMARY: Wildfire hazard rules repeal.

CHANGES TO RULE:

~~629-044-1016~~

~~Periodic Wildland-Urban Interface Lands Identification and Classification~~

~~Tax lots wholly or partially identified as within the Wildland-Urban Interface shall be reviewed in conjunction with updates to the statewide wildfire hazard map in accordance with OAR 629-044-1026.~~

~~Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 477.015-477.027, ORS 526.016, ORS 477.490~~

~~Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 477.015-477.027~~

REPEAL: 629-044-1021

RULE SUMMARY: Wildfire hazard rules repeal. Hazard zones definitions.

CHANGES TO RULE:

~~629-044-1021~~

~~Wildfire Hazard Rating~~

~~(1) Wildfire hazard zones are established as follows: ¶¶~~

~~(a) Low Wildfire Hazard. A hazard value less than 0.001911. ¶¶~~

~~(b) Moderate Wildfire Hazard. A value between 0.001911 to 0.137872. ¶¶~~

~~(c) High Wildfire Hazard. A value greater than 0.137872. ¶¶~~

~~(2) It is recognized that natural vegetation is highly variable and that the fuel models used in subsection (1) of this rule may not always accurately reflect expected wildfire behavior, due to variations in local species and vegetation conditions. Therefore, consistent with peer reviewed methods, modifications may be made to the hazard rating to ensure accuracy. ¶¶~~

~~(3) Each wildfire hazard zone assignment shall be based on the average pixel-level wildfire hazard values within each tax lot. ¶¶~~

~~(4) Each wildfire hazard zone shall consist of a net value change range. The value ranges that correlate to a given wildfire hazard zone shall be determined using a statistically objective methodology.~~

~~Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 477.490, ORS 526.016~~

~~Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 477.490~~

REPEAL: 629-044-1026

RULE SUMMARY: Wildfire hazard rules repeal. Hazard Map methodology.

CHANGES TO RULE:

~~629-044-1026~~

~~Wildfire Hazard Map~~

~~(1) Oregon State University shall develop and maintain the Statewide Wildfire Hazard Map in a publicly accessible format. The map shall be developed:¶~~

~~(a) using current, peer reviewed data sets when calculating wildfire hazard;¶~~

~~(b) calculating wildfire hazard as a combined hazard rating value incorporating annual burn probability and wildfire intensity; ¶~~

~~(c) and utilize the most representative fuel characteristics practical;¶~~

~~(d) to include a layer that geospatially displays the locations of socially and economically vulnerable communities; and¶~~

~~(e) to include adjustments for irrigated agricultural, in locations identified as irrigated at least one of five years within the most recent IrrMapper dataset, prior to updates in accordance with Section 2 of this rule.¶~~

~~(2) Oregon State University shall update the map and other publicly available web-based tools shall be updated in consultation with the State Forester and other agency partners, within 12 months after updates to the most current wildfire hazard assessment data sets are available.~~

~~Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 526.016, ORS 477.490~~

~~Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 477.490~~

REPEAL: 629-044-1031

RULE SUMMARY: Wildfire hazard rules repeal. Noticing rules.

CHANGES TO RULE:

~~629-044-1031~~

~~Notification~~

~~(1) The State Forester shall provide written notice to the owners of properties classified as high hazard zone within the Wildland-Urban Interface. ¶¶~~

~~(2) The written notice shall be sent to the property owner address included in the county assessor records. ¶¶~~

~~(3) The written notice shall include: ¶¶~~

~~(a) the wildfire hazard zone assignment; ¶¶~~

~~(b) where a map of the property can be found in the publicly accessible mapping portal; ¶¶~~

~~(c) information regarding what the wildfire hazard assignment means for the property owner; ¶¶~~

~~(d) information regarding available wildfire related resources and programs; and ¶¶~~

~~(e) information about how a property owner may appeal the assignment of wildfire hazard zone. ¶¶~~

~~(4) Prior to the effective date of updates to the Statewide Wildfire Hazard Map, the Department shall hold regional public meetings. ¶¶~~

~~(5) The Department shall provide a notice of the times and places of all statewide and regional meetings, and the other ways by which comments may be submitted, using a variety of notice methods designed to reach diverse audiences, both statewide and within each region. ¶¶~~

~~(6) The Department, in consultation with Oregon State University, shall present anticipated changes to the Wildland-Urban Interface boundary and Wildfire Hazard Zone assignments at a county scale. ¶¶~~

~~(7) The meeting shall allocate time to receive input from any interested persons relating to the proposed wildfire hazard zone assignments. ¶¶~~

~~(8) The Department shall establish and publicize a place where electronic and written comment may be received. ¶¶~~

~~(9) Following the public meeting the Department, in consultation with Oregon State University, may make changes in the proposed wildfire hazard zone assignments, hold additional meetings, and thereafter shall make final wildfire hazard zone assignments.~~

~~Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 477.490, ORS 526.016~~

~~Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 477.490~~

REPEAL: 629-044-1036

RULE SUMMARY: Wildfire hazard rules repeal. Wildfire plans.

CHANGES TO RULE:

~~629-044-1036~~

~~Locally Developed Wildfire Plans~~

~~(1) The following types of locally developed wildfire plans may be integrated into the wildfire hazard mapping portal if the local jurisdiction chooses.¶¶~~

~~(a) Community Wildfire Protection Plans developed under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act;¶¶~~

~~(b) Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans developed under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act;¶¶~~

~~(c) Firewise USA Action Plans developed under the Firewise USA Program administered by the National Fire Protection Association.¶¶~~

~~(2) Information in the types of locally developed wildfire plans identified in subsections (1)(a) thru (c) above, may complement, but does not supplant or supersede the Statewide Wildfire Hazard Map.~~

~~Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 477.490, ORS 526.016~~

~~Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 477.490~~

REPEAL: 629-044-1041

RULE SUMMARY: Wildfire hazard rules repeal. Appeal process.

CHANGES TO RULE:

~~629-044-1041~~

~~Appeal of Wildfire Hazard Assignment~~

~~(1) Any affected property owner or local governments may appeal the assignment of properties to the wildfire hazard zones. All appeals of the assignment shall be referred for a contested case hearing in accordance with ORS Chapter 183, OAR 629-001-0003 to OAR 629-001-0055, and this rule. The Administrative Law Judge assigned the matter shall be authorized to issue a Proposed Order. The State Forester shall issue the Final Order.~~

~~(2) The notification described under OAR 629-044-1031 shall serve as a Notice of Proposed Agency Action for property owners in the high hazard zone and also within the Wildland-Urban Interface. The posting of the hazard map on the Oregon Explorer Map Viewer website shall serve as the agency's Notice of Proposed Agency Action for all other property owners who have a right to appeal under ORS 477.490.~~

~~(3) An affected property owner may appeal the assignment of a wildfire hazard zone to property by submitting a written hearing request to the Department. Such request must be made within 60 days of the following events, whichever is later:~~

~~(a) The date that the wildfire hazard map or an update to the hazard map is posted on Oregon Explorer Map Viewer website; or~~

~~(b) The date that a correctly addressed notice, issued in accordance with OAR 629-044-1031(2), is deposited with the postal service for mailing to the affected property owner.~~

~~(4) A local government may appeal the assignment of a wildfire hazard zone by submitting a written hearing request to the Department. Such request must be made within 60 days of the following events, whichever is later:~~

~~(a) The date that the wildfire hazard map or an update to the hazard map is posted on Oregon Explorer Map Viewer website; or~~

~~(b) The date that a correctly addressed notice, issued in accordance with OAR 629-044-1031(2), is deposited with the postal service for mailing to the local government.~~

~~(5) The written hearing request must specifically state:~~

~~(a) the issues to be addressed;~~

~~(b) The criteria of the hazard map being contested; and~~

~~(c) the relief sought.~~

~~(d) Additionally, the appeal must include the following contact information for referral:~~

~~(A) Property owner name;~~

~~(B) Mailing address;~~

~~(C) Property address and tax lot number; and~~

~~(D) Phone number.~~

~~(6) This specific response is required based on the agency's determination that, due to the complexity of the program and category of cases involved, a more specific response is warranted. The requester may amend their response, except when doing so would be unduly prejudicial. Failure to raise an issue as provided in this rule shall constitute a waiver of the opportunity to raise the issue in a contested hearing.~~

~~(7) Upon receipt of a written request for hearing under this section, the Department may contact the property owner or local government to seek additional information and attempt to informally resolve the appeal.~~

~~(8) The Department shall provide information to the public describing changes to the map that result from appeals. The information shall be posted on the Department's public website.~~

~~(9) The State Forester will issue a Final Order resolving appeals under this section, based on the record established through the contested case hearing. The Forester's Final Order is subject to appeal as prescribed by ORS 183.482.~~

~~Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 477.490, ORS 526.016~~

~~Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 477.490~~



# Board of Forestry Public Meeting

## **1. Welcome / Opening Comments**

*Chair opens meeting. This item serves as an opportunity for the State Forester to brief the Board of Forestry of the Department or related topics of importance. Individual members of the Board can offer comments for the Chair, Secretary, and Board consideration. Comment times may be reduced at the discretion of the Board Chair.*

*This is an information item.*



# Board of Forestry Public Meeting

## **2. Consent Agenda Items**

*This item serves as an opportunity for the Board of Forestry to review and consider items presented on the Consent Agenda for the Chair, Secretary, and Board members. Comment times may be reduced at the discretion of the Board Chair.*

*This is a combination of information and decision items.*



# Board of Forestry Public Meeting

## **3. PUBLIC FORUM**

*Sign-up instructions for providing public comment are posted on the Board's meeting webpage.*

*Comments are limited to two minutes or less. Forum is reserved for remarks on information items and topics off the agenda. Comment times may be reduced at the discretion of the Board Chair.*

*This is an information item.*

## **STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Item No.:	4
Presentation Title:	OFRI Values and Beliefs survey
Date of Presentation:	January 7, 2026
Contact Information:	Jim Paul, Executive Director OFRI
Staff Contact:	Tim Holschbach, Interim Deputy State Forester <a href="mailto:Tim.j.holschbach@odf.oregon.gov">Tim.j.holschbach@odf.oregon.gov</a>

### **SUMMARY**

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) last reported to the Board of Forestry in January 2024, providing the Board an overview of OFRI's Vision, Mission, and Goals. In this Board agenda item, OFRI will present the results of the most recent Values and Beliefs survey.

### **CONTEXT**

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) supports the forest sector and the stewardship of natural resources by advancing Oregonians' understanding of the social, environmental, and economic benefits of Oregon's forests. OFRI partners with more than 100 organizations (including ODF) and individuals on their educational programs, publications, and videos, including state and federal agencies, conservation groups, private businesses, nonprofit organizations, universities, and schools.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

This item is for information only.

## **STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Item No.:	05
Work Plan:	Forest Resources Division
Topic:	Ceremonial Events and Recognitions
Presentation Title:	2025 Forest Practices Operator of the Year Awards
Date of Presentation:	January 7, 2026
Contact Information:	Greg Wagenblast, Policy Analyst, Forest Resources Division 541-525-6462, <a href="mailto:Greg.Wagenblast@odf.Oregon.gov">Greg.Wagenblast@odf.Oregon.gov</a> Scott Swearingen, Field Support Unit Manager, Forest Resources Division (541) 580-7485, <a href="mailto:scott.swearingen@odf.oregon.gov">scott.swearingen@odf.oregon.gov</a>

### **SUMMARY**

The Board of Forestry recognizes Operators of the Year. This year's award recipients are Boulder Ridge, LLC, Weber Logging and Construction, Inc. and Quality Excavation, Inc.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Oregon Forest Practices Act aims to provide for the overall maintenance of air quality, water resources, soil productivity, and fish and wildlife. These forest resources are important to all Oregonians. The Operator of the Year program recognizes operators who voluntarily protect these resources in a conscientious and diligent way. To recognize operators who meet or exceed Forest Practice Act requirements, typically the Board names one Operator of the Year per Region and one or more Merit Award recipients; ODF districts may also issue Letters of Commendation. Program goals are to:

1. Recognize operators who consistently meet or exceed the Oregon Forest Practices Act and voluntarily raise industry standards; and,
2. Improve public understanding of the Forest Practices Act, its administration, and its effectiveness in protecting natural resources.

### **PROCESS**

Anyone may nominate candidates for the Operator of the Year. Agency staff screen the nominees for minimum requirements. The Regional Forest Practices Committees review the nominations for their region. Each committee chooses a recipient based on innovative techniques, cooperative spirit, consistent performance, and measures taken to protect forest resources. To make the selection, Regional Forest Practices Committee members tour the sites, review nominations, and watch videos that capture the operator's work.

## **The 2025 Operators of the Year are:**

### **For the Eastern Oregon Region –**

**Boulder Ridge, LLC** based in Bend, Boulder Ridge was asked by the large industrial landowner to reduce wildfire risk and improve the health of remaining trees by thinning out nearly 2,000 acres of ponderosa pine forest and removing trees infested with dwarf mistletoe. The stand northwest of Bend on the eastern slopes of the Cascade Range was dangerously overcrowded at 400 trees per acre. Years of fire suppression had allowed drought-sensitive white fir and Douglas-fir to infiltrate. The landowner wanted these removed as well as trees infested with dwarf mistletoe. This parasitic plant spreads easily in crowded conditions and saps trees' vigor and vitality. Spacing trees farther apart makes it harder for the mistletoe's sticky seeds to shoot out and infest nearby trees.

The operator worked to preserve the buffers around the Three Creek fish-bearing stream, using ground based equipment to reach in and remove mistletoe-infested trees along the stream while leaving healthy ones. To preserve soils, Boulder Ridge operated primarily during winter when soils were frozen or snow covered. This greatly reduced rutting and helped preserve understory shrubs and grasses for wildlife. Decisions about which trees to remove were made solely by the operator. He successfully thinned the unit while retaining enough healthy trees to not trigger replanting requirements for the landowner, and by leaving more than enough downed wood to satisfy requirements for wildlife habitat. The thinning selections established a multi-aged stand of timber, providing the landowner options for future forest management & harvest activities.

### **Southwest Oregon Region–**

**WEBER LOGGING AND CONSTRUCTION, INC.** of Roseburg, Oregon. Landowner Roseburg Resources nominated Weber Logging and Construction based in Roseburg as this year's Operator of the Year for the Southwest Oregon Region. They state they nominated operator Austin Weber and his crew for consistency and tackling a difficult harvest of 60-year-old Douglas-fir on steep terrain at 2,500 feet on the west slopes of the Cascades. Owner Austin Weber faced new Forest Practices Act requirements to safeguard trees in designated slope retention areas where all trees had to be left. There were six of these areas on the unit ranging in size from a third of an acre to 1.7 acres. Each roadside landing required time-consuming set-up and take-down. This also required careful planning for yarding and hauling out timber. In addition to traditional yarding using a grapple swing yarder, Weber also employed tethered logging to minimize soil disturbance on the steep slopes, anchoring a feller buncher and a skidder to cables.

Another requirement Weber met under new Forest Practices Act rules was to protect equipment limitation zones, where entry of logging machinery was strictly limited. To protect those zones, Weber hand-felled timber on the other side and yarded it over the protected zone. The landowner reported that Weber kept vegetation in the protected areas intact with no damage. There was minimal disturbance to soils and logging debris was kept to a minimum, making it easy for the unit to be replanted with young trees.

Roseburg Resources states that Weber is a forward thinker who is always willing to try different combinations of equipment to meet the challenges of even the most difficult jobs. He is a past Award of Merit winner, noted for consistently meeting the highest standards of the Forest Practices Act.

### **Northwest Oregon Region –**

**QUALITY EXCAVATION, INC.** of Seaside Oregon is this year’s Operator of the Year for the Northwest Oregon Region. The team of Jason Bergeson and his crew earned the award for successfully installing their first and largest FRIA culverts, ones that meet new Forest Road Inventory and Assessment program standards. Jason Bergeson’s son Cole led the project and did most of the work with a partner installing the culverts on two medium fish-bearing tributaries, one of the South Fork of the Klaskanine River and the other the North Fork of the Necanicum River. By installing these fish-passable modern culverts, Quality Excavation opened upstream fish habitat and spawning grounds that had been unavailable to salmon and trout for many decades.

Quality Excavation met a number of challenges on this job, first having to dam the stream, then divert the water downstream through long tubes to keep water quality clean during the work. They then removed the failed old culvert, along with big old-growth logs it had been placed on top of long ago. Finally, they had to place the new culvert in sections, renting a bobcat (Mini Skid steer bucket loader) to fill inside the pipe with rocks to create a natural stream bottom. The long length of the culvert required them, for worker safety, to rent a large industrial fan to blow carbon dioxide out of the pipe while working within it. Quality Excavation then had to rebuild the road on top of the culvert to a height of 30 feet or more above the creek and face it with rocks to prevent erosion. The new culverts performed perfectly over the winter, handling high winter flows, and the rebuilt road allowed successful log hauling from units beyond the crossing.

### **PUBLICITY**

The department recognizes the operators through news releases, social media posts, and at annual statewide industry events, including the Associated Oregon Loggers Convention and the Oregon Logging Conference.

All nominees met or exceeded Forest Practices laws and improved Oregon’s forests in multiple ways, from enhancing fish and wildlife habitat to forest management planning for private landowners to improving fire safety and forest health, and safeguarding water quality and soil.

Merit Award and Letter of Commendation recipients will be recognized at local functions. The Merit Award recipients for 2025 are:

- Jeff Maben of Mt. Vernon, OR – Eastern Oregon Region Merit Award
- Staton Forestry of Eugene, OR - Eastern Oregon Region Merit Award
- Dave Wilkerson Logging LLC of Eagle Point, OR-SW Oregon Region Merit Award
- Emerald Valley Thinning, Inc. of Philomath, OR – NW Oregon Region Merit Award
- RDL Northwest of Lebanon, OR – NW Oregon Region Merit Award

All of the videos for the merit award winners can be found at: [Oregon Department of Forestry - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/@OregonDepartmentofForestry) (<https://www.youtube.com/@OregonDepartmentofForestry>)

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLhtLP-50RDaTT\\_2xQbO-LEfxJheH2YVYo](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLhtLP-50RDaTT_2xQbO-LEfxJheH2YVYo)

Staff will give a brief presentation, including videos, and operator recognition.

- Boulder Ridge, LLC:  
[Eastern Oregon Operator of the Year for 2025, Winner - Boulder Ridge LLC](https://youtu.be/-eWz0GhA3eQ?si=RiwaG_rZv1GNk5MG)  
[https://youtu.be/-eWz0GhA3eQ?si=RiwaG\\_rZv1GNk5MG](https://youtu.be/-eWz0GhA3eQ?si=RiwaG_rZv1GNk5MG)
- Weber Logging and Construction, Inc.:  
[Northwest Oregon Operator of the Year for 2025, Winner - Quality Excavation, Inc.](https://youtu.be/XCONj5vtJSQ?si=j5MBKqQDKlm_dc-p)  
[https://youtu.be/XCONj5vtJSQ?si=j5MBKqQDKlm\\_dc-p](https://youtu.be/XCONj5vtJSQ?si=j5MBKqQDKlm_dc-p)
- Quality Excavation, Inc.:  
[Southwest Oregon Operator of the Year for 2025, Winner - Weber Logging and Construction](https://youtu.be/rqwOaRaQ2po?si=UeMYICR-x5bW5cmN)  
<https://youtu.be/rqwOaRaQ2po?si=UeMYICR-x5bW5cmN>

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Department recommends the Board of Forestry present the recipients with plaques uniquely recognizing each operator for excellent forestry work.

Agenda Item No.:	6
Topic:	Federal Executive Orders and US Wildland Fire Service
Date of Presentation:	January 8, 2025
Contact Information:	John Tokarczyk, Resource Planning Manager <a href="mailto:John.A.TOKARCZYK@odf.oregon.gov">John.A.TOKARCZYK@odf.oregon.gov</a> Michael Curran, Fire Division Chief <a href="mailto:Michael.CURRAN@odf.oregon.gov">Michael.CURRAN@odf.oregon.gov</a>

## **SUMMARY**

- Recent federal executive actions, rulemakings, and regulatory rescissions are reshaping the policy framework governing forest and natural-resource management on federal lands. A number of these changes have direct implications for forest management, wildfire risk reduction, environmental review, and intergovernmental coordination in Oregon.
- This item provides an overview of several consequential recent and pending federal rule changes affecting Oregon forest and resource management, outlines their status in the federal rulemaking process, and identifies potential implications for forest management activities, including Good Neighbor Authority, shared stewardship, and cross-boundary projects.
- This is an informational item.

## **CONTEXT**

Federal land management agencies play a substantial role in forest management and wildfire response in Oregon. Changes in federal regulations and policy direction can affect agency procedures, planning frameworks, and the timing and structure of on-the-ground activities.

Over the past year, multiple federal rulemakings and executive actions have been initiated or finalized across several policy areas. These actions are largely federal in nature and are proceeding through established rulemaking processes. The department is monitoring these developments for awareness and coordination purposes.

## **BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

### **U.S. Forest Service Roadless Rule**

The U.S. Forest Service has proposed rescission of the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. If finalized, this action would remove nationwide prohibitions related to road construction and timber harvest in inventoried roadless areas, while other applicable planning, environmental, and species-protection requirements would remain in place. In Oregon, national forests include inventoried roadless areas that would be subject to this change if finalized.

### **Bureau of Land Management Conservation Rule**

The Bureau of Land Management finalized a Conservation and Landscape Health Rule in 2024 and has initiated a subsequent rulemaking to rescind or revise that rule. The proposed action would adjust how conservation is considered within BLM land-use planning and project decisions. BLM-managed lands in Oregon would be subject to any final changes adopted through this process.

### **Endangered Species Act Rule Updates**

In 2025, federal wildlife agencies released four proposed rule changes addressing Endangered Species Act listing procedures, critical habitat designation, protections for threatened species, and interagency consultation. Public comment has closed, and final rules are expected in 2026. These proposals address how ESA requirements are implemented and may affect consultation and review processes for federal actions, including forest management activities.

### **NEPA Regulatory Changes**

In 2025, the Council on Environmental Quality rescinded its NEPA implementing regulations. Federal agencies now rely on agency-specific NEPA procedures. USDA has updated Forest Service NEPA regulations accordingly, with revisions focused on procedural clarity and efficiency. These changes apply to federal actions and may affect how environmental review is conducted and scheduled.

### **Northwest Forest Plan Amendment**

The Northwest Forest Plan amendment effort was paused in 2025 and is expected to restart in 2026. A draft environmental analysis is anticipated later in the process. The amendment will establish the long-term management framework for federal forests covered by the Plan in Oregon.

### **Intergovernmental Coordination and Wildfire Governance**

Oregon continues to work with federal partners through existing coordination frameworks, including Shared Stewardship and Good Neighbor Authority. Recent federal actions related to wildfire governance, including establishment of a U.S. Wildland Fire Service, are intended to streamline federal wildfire response and may affect coordination over time.

### **ATTACHMENTS** *[as applicable]*

- None



## Board of Forestry Public Meeting

### **7. Closing Comments**

*This item serves as an opportunity for the Board Chair to reflect on the public meeting and mop-up any outstanding business. Individual members of the Board can offer comments for the Chair, Secretary, and Board consideration. Comment times may be reduced at the discretion of the Board Chair.*

*This is an information item.*