

Agenda Item No.:	C
Work Plan:	Forest Resources Division
Presentation Title:	Committee for Family Forestlands Appointment
Date of Presentation:	June 3, 2026
Contact Information:	Mike Kroon, Deputy Division Chief, Forest Resources Division, mike.e.kroon@odf.oregon.gov

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 reappointment of a voting member to serve as the Northwest Oregon Landowner Representative and requests the appointment of a committee Chair and Vice-Chair. 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](#).

David Bugni currently fills the voting, Northwest Oregon Landowner Representative. His first term expires June 30, 2026. At their January 14, 2026, meeting, the CFF voted to request his reappointment to the committee and that he be appointed committee Chair. His biography is included as Attachment 1 and a letter of recommendation from the current CFF Chair is included as Attachment 2.

At their March 11, 2026, meeting, the CFF voted to request Kate McMichael be appointed committee Vice-Chair. Kate McMichael serves as the voting, Landowner at Large Representative and was first appointed to the CFF in June 2021. Her biography is included as Attachment 3.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) The Department recommends the Board reappoint David Bugni.
- (2) The Department recommends the Board appoint David Bugni as the CFF Chair.
- (3) The Department recommends the Board appoint Kate McMichael the CFF Vice-Chair.

ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Letter of Recommendation for chair appointment from current CFF Chair
- (2) David Bugni's Biography
- (3) Kate McMichael's Biography

Wendy R. Gerlach
Chair, Committee for Family Forestlands
Date: February 4, 2026

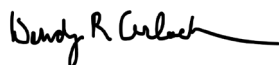
To the Board of Forestry,

It is my pleasure to recommend, on behalf of the Committee of Family Forestlands, David Bugni as chair of the Committee. The Committee discussed the recommendation at its meeting of January 14, 2026, and unanimously agreed to put David forward as the Committee's chair, to start with the Committee's June meeting. (I will be stepping off the Committee at that time, having served the maximum of two three-year terms.)

David is well known in the Small Forestland Owner community, as an engaged and informed landowner who has taken leadership positions with groups including Oregon Small Woodlands Association and Oregon Tree Farm System. He has received awards for his stewardship of land and water on his family's forest near Estacada. As the northwest landowner member of the Committee, he is unfailingly generous with his time and ideas.

We appreciate David's stepping forward to act as chair, and recommend that the Board appoint him as chair of the Committee for Family Forestlands.

Best regards, and with thanks for your service to the State,



Wendy Gerlach

David Bugni



David Bugni graduated from Oregon State University with a BS in Civil Engineering (1983) and a MS in Structural Engineering and Mechanics from the University of California, Berkeley (1984). David began his OSU studies in forest science then forest engineering prior to transferring to civil engineering in his senior year. He practiced structural engineering for over 30 years, owning his own business from 1996 - 2016 until retiring in 2016.

The Bugni family has been small woodland owners for 34 years on 101 acres in rural Estacada, Oregon. David and his wife have two grown children. David wrote the family's forest management plan in 2013 (updated in 2023). The family was the 2020 Clackamas County Woodland Farmer of the Year and the 2022 State of Oregon Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year. The Bugni's last commercial logging project, by contract, was a 20-acre thinning of 50 year old timber in 2014. Another commercial thinning is scheduled in about 2030. In 2023, the family entered into a 60-year contract with Forest Carbon Works to set aside their property for carbon storage and sequestration and is participating in the voluntary carbon market. Additionally, the Bugni family was awarded the joint ODF/ODFW "Fish & Wildlife Steward Award – Forest Lands" for 2019 for the Northwest Oregon region, Non-Industrial Forestlands category. In 2021, David received the Partnership Award from the Pacific Northwest Region of the US Forest Service for "example-setting land stewardship and outreach in aquatic restoration." David is also a Master Woodland Manager (OSU Extension Service).

David currently serves as Chair of the Oregon Tree Farm System, is on the board of the Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association (Secretary/Treasurer), is the Past Board Chair of the Clackamas River Basin Council, the President of the Friends of the Estacada Public Library and the past chair of the Estacada School Board (term ended in 2005). David is active on the Governmental Affairs Team of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA). In 2022 he also served on the OSWA Riparian sub-committee that assisted ODF during the drafting of rules for the Private Forest Accord and is currently a member of the ODF Adaptive Management Program Committee (AMPC).

The Bugni family has been active for many years in voluntary riparian area improvements and fish habitat restoration activities within, and adjacent to, the creek (a medium, type SSBT) that flows through their property and has been successful in receiving over \$1,000,000 in grants in support of such work on their property and adjacent neighbors' lands. In late 2021, David wrote a \$294,000 grant to the ODF Small Forestland Grant (SFG) program and was subsequently awarded funds for extensive fuels reduction work within his community under funding from SB 762.

When David is not participating in these activities, he is often found walking through the family's property enjoying the beauty of the surrounding forestland.

Committee for Family Forestlands – Kate McMichael Bio



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