

Agenda Item No:	B
Work Plan Title:	Forest Resources Division
Presentation Title:	Regional Forest Practices Committee Appointments and Reappointments
Date of Presentation:	September 9, 2026
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SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to recommend the appointment of new members and the re-appointment of existing members to the Regional Forest Practice Committees (RFPCs). This is a decision item.

CONTEXT

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 527.640 requires the Board of Forestry to establish a forest practice committee for each forest region. ORS 527.650 states each committee shall consist of nine members, a majority of whom must reside in the region. Members of each committee shall be qualified by education or experience in natural resource management, and not less than two-thirds of the members of each committee shall be private landowners, private timber owners, or authorized representatives of such landowners or timber owners who regularly engage in operations.

ORS 527.660 states “Each forest practice committee shall review proposed forest practice rules in order to assist the State Board of Forestry in developing rules appropriate to the forest conditions within its region. Committee recommendations are advisory only and the committees need not be consulted prior to the adoption of any forest practice rule.”

Oregon Administrative Rule Chapter 629 Division 676 also outlines the responsibilities of the RFPCs, member qualifications, appointments, organization and conduct of meetings. By rule the RFPCs may determine their operating procedures, all three committees continue to provide a forum for the public; allowing members of the public to participate and offer information and suggestions at each meeting. The Forest Resources Division Deputy Chief for Forest Practices and Monitoring serves as the secretary for all three committees.

BACKGROUND

Committee member appointments occur annually in September. The committee positions have staggered terms, and each year one-third of the committee members’ terms end. This approach ensures the continuity of committee work.

The department contacted committee members whose terms expire in 2026 about their interest in continued service. To fill pending resignations and existing vacancies, the department and committee chairs searched for qualified nominees with diverse backgrounds. Attachment 1 details the biographies of all new and reappointing members.

Attachment 2 details the full roster for each committee.

The following recommendation shows current vacancies, recommended member reappointments and new appointments, and term expiration dates. The term expirations maintain the staggered term approach.

RECOMMENDATION

The department recommends the Board make the following reappointments and new appointments:

<u>Northwest Oregon Region:</u>	<u>Term Expiration (September)</u>
Randy Silbernagel (r, p)	2029
Alex Konopka (n, p)	2029
VACANCY	2029
VACANCY	2027

<u>Southwest Oregon Region:</u>	
Steve Swanson, Chair (r)	2029
Michael Williams (n)	2029
Tyler Nay (n)	2029
VACANCY	2027
VACANCY	2027

<u>Eastern Oregon Region:</u>	
Todd Kurtz (r)	2029
Jeremy Grose (r)	2029
Jake Miller (n)	2029
VACANCY	2027
VACANCY	2027
VACANCY	2028

(r) Reappointment
(n) New Appointment
(p) Public Member

ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Biographies for appointments
- (2) Committee rosters

NORTHWEST OREGON REGION



Biography for Randy Silbernagel

Randy Silbernagel is a retired forester. He worked for Freres Lumber Co., Inc. until his retirement in 2017 where he served in various roles such as supervising cutting, logging and reforestation contractors, and supervising road construction, maintenance, and engineering work. He graduated from Oregon State University with a Forest Engineering degree. Over the years, he has served on many ODF committees: Headquarters Services Budget Committee, Fire Program Review Committee, Fire Protection Strategic Investments Committee and on two Forest Protective Association boards.



Biography for Alex Konopka

Alex Konopka is the Senior Manager of Vegetation Management at Portland General Electric (PGE), where he leads programs focused on utility vegetation management, wildfire risk reduction, and system reliability. In this role, he oversees large-scale efforts to manage vegetation across thousands of miles of electric infrastructure, helping protect communities, natural resources, and critical energy systems. His work integrates forestry best practices, operational execution, and cross-sector collaboration to reduce wildfire risk and enhance grid resilience.

Konopka brings a background in landscape architecture and project management, with a strong emphasis on practical field operations, stakeholder engagement, and continuous improvement. He is also a Fellow with the World Forestry Center, where he collaborates with regional leaders on advancing sustainable forestry, wildfire resilience, and community engagement across the Pacific Northwest.

SOUTHWEST OREGON REGION

Biography for Steve Swanson



Steve Swanson is the Southern Oregon Region Engineer for Weyerhaeuser Company. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Forest Engineering from Oregon State University. After graduation started his career at International Paper. Steve went on to work in an area engineering role with Weyerhaeuser and for 31 years was responsible for planning, scheduling, management, and layout of field engineering activities associated with timber harvest, road construction, and road maintenance. Steve is a professional licensed engineer and has extensive experience implementing the Oregon Forest Practices Act, interpreting federal easement agreements, and mentoring and onboarding early career engineers. In 2023 he was promoted to Region Engineer. He serves on the Oregon State University Forest Engineering Department Academic Advisory Committee and volunteers for Forests Today and Forever.

Biography for Michael Williams



Michael Williams is the Contract Logging Supervisor for Roseburg Forest Products Co. in Dillard, Oregon. In this role, he oversees harvesting operations on company-owned land as well as within Roseburg's timber sale program, which includes projects ranging from small private landowners to large-scale U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) timber sales.

Michael joined Roseburg Forest Products in 2018 after earning a B.S. in Forest Engineering from Oregon State University. His experience in the field includes working on road-building crews, logging operations, and serving as a forest engineer prior to stepping into his current position.

BIOGRAPHIES FOR REGIONAL FOREST PRACTICE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

September 2026



Biography for Tyler Nay

Tyler Nay is the Forest Supervisor for Campbell Global in Coos Bay, OR and has 15 years of experience in the private sector of the timber industry. He began his career as a consultant specializing in timber cruising and cadastral surveying across the Pacific Northwest for 3 years. He then transitioned into contract logging and engineering supervision. He currently manages operations on 22,000 acres of the Fairview Timber holdings. This includes all engineering, harvesting, silviculture and log marketing activities. Tyler holds a Bachelor of Science in Forest Engineering from Oregon State University and is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Oregon.

EASTERN OREGON REGION



Biography for Todd Kurtz

Todd Kurtz is a Silviculture Area Manager for Manulife Investment Management Forest Management where he leads the layout and reforestation operations. He has worked for Manulife since 2010 serving as a Reforestation Forester, Silviculture Forester, Logging Contract Administrator and Senior Forester. During his career, Todd has also worked for the United States Forest Service and as a logger for C&C Logging. He has a B.A. in Economics with a minor in Environmental Science Resource Management from the University of Washington and an M.B.A. from Eastern Oregon University.



Biography for Jeremy Grose

Jeremy Grose has a B.S. in Forest Products from University of Idaho. He is a Senior Forester for Green Diamond and has over 25 years of industry experience. He is a representative for the Washington Forest Products Association for SDS Lumber, a Central Oregon District Board member at large for Eastern Oregon Forest Protection Association, and a member of Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Society of American Foresters, South Gifford Pinchot Collaborative, and Hood River Stew Crew.



Biography for Jake Miller

Jake Miller is the Senior Area Forester for Green Diamond timberlands located in Southern and Southeastern Oregon. He has a B.S. in Forestry and Natural Resources from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Jake is California Registered Professional Forester and has worked in the private timber industry for over ten years. Jake is involved with local Forest Protection Associations, regional timber operators, and community outreach. He enjoys the challenge of managing dry, eastside forests and all the complexities that come with them.

CURRENT REGIONAL FOREST PRACTICE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

September 2026

NORTHWEST OREGON REGION

Member Name	Current Term Began	Current Term Expires	Recommended Expiration
Randy Silbernagel (r, p)	09/2023	09/2026	09/2029
Alex Konopka (n, p)		09/2026	09/2029
[VACANT]		09/2026	09/2029
Aaron Zweber	09/2024	09/2027	
Dave Wells (p)	09/2024	09/2027	
[VACANT]		09/2027	
Mike Barnes (Chair)	09/2025	09/2028	
Candace Bonner	09/2025	09/2028	
Rob Van Curler	09/2025	09/2028	

SOUTHWEST OREGON REGION

Member Name	Current Term Began	Current Term Expires	Recommended Expiration
Steve Swanson (Chair) (r)	09/2024	09/2026	09/2029
Michael Williams (n)		09/2026	09/2029
Tyler Nay (n)		09/2026	09/2029
Kale Woosley	09/2024	09/2027	
[VACANT]		09/2027	
[VACANT]		09/2027	
Chris Arnold	09/2025	09/2028	
Michael Scott	09/2025	09/2028	
Hunter Kjos	09/2025	09/2028	

EASTERN OREGON REGION

Member Name	Current Term Began	Current Term Expires	Recommended Expiration
Todd Kurtz (r)	09/2023	09/2026	09/2029
Jeremy Grose (r)	09/2023	09/2026	09/2029
Jake Miller (n)		09/2026	09/2029
Bob Messinger (Chair)	09/2024	09/2027	
[VACANT]		09/2027	
[VACANT]		09/2027	
[VACANT]		09/2028	
Tim Rude	09/2025	09/2028	
Travis Erickson	09/2025	09/2028	

(r) Reappointment
(n) New Appointment
(p) Public Member