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| Agenda Item No.:      | E                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Work Plan:            | Forest Resources Division                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Presentation Title:   | Committee for Family Forestlands Annual Report                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Date of Presentation: | September 9, 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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## SUMMARY

The Committee for Family Forestlands (CFF) is an advisory committee to the Board of Forestry (Board) and the Oregon Department of Forestry (Department). The purpose of this agenda item is for the CFF to provide a report on the committee's activities, discuss progress on key issues, and make recommendations on policy topics affecting family forestlands. This is a decision item with the decision being to accept the report.

## CONTEXT

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](#).

## ANALYSIS

Over the past year, the Committee focused on the objectives and issues identified in their 2025-2026 work plan. The committee has prepared an annual report to inform the Board of the committees' progress in addressing issues affecting family forestland and the report is provided as Attachment 1.

## RECOMMENDATION

The committee recommends the Board accept the annual report provided as Attachment 1.

## ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Committee for Family Forestlands Annual Report to the Board Fiscal Year 2025-2026

# Committee for Family Forestlands Annual Report to the Board

## Fiscal Year 2025-2026

*Annual Report presented to the Board of Forestry September 9, 2026  
By Dave Bugni, Chair, Committee for Family Forestlands*

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### Background and Introduction

The Committee for Family Forestlands (“CFF”) is a standing committee established by the Oregon Board of Forestry to assist and advise the State Forester and the Board on issues relevant to Oregon’s ~70,000 family Small Forestland Owners (SFOs), including advice on the formulation of policy and potential effects of changes in forest policy on those lands. The CFF is supported by and works with the Oregon Department of Forestry (“ODF”) in fulfilling that role, while also serving as a liaison to the SFO community.

The CFF has received many helpful briefings on key topics from ODF staff, particularly from the Forest Resources Division, and thanks Mike Kroon, Heather Henderson and Miriam Miller in particular, for outstanding support of the CFF.

The CFF thanks the Board and State Forester for their service to the state and its forests and appreciates their awareness of contributions and needs of SFOs. A special thank-you goes to Ben Deumling for attending many of our meetings and acting as a connection to the Board. We know the Board considers the CFF a resource to the Board and ODF in their work and look forward to continuing this important relationship.

#### CFF 2025-2026 voting members:

- David Bugni, Chair (Northwest Oregon Family Forestland Owner, term expires 6/30/2029)
- Kate McMichael, co-Chair (Landowner at Large, term expires 6/30/2027)
- Gary Jensen (Southern Oregon Family Forestland Owner, term expires 6/30/2027)
- Maurizio Valerio (Eastern Oregon Family Forestland Owner, term expires 6/30/2027)
- Jake Ryan (Industry Representative, term expires 6/30/2028)
- Becca Shively (Conservation Community), term began June 2026, term expires 6/30/2029
- Wendy Gerlach, previous Chair (Citizen at Large), term ended June 2026

Wendy Gerlach left the CFF this summer after six years of dutiful service as the CFF Citizen at Large Representative. She dedicated many hours to the CFF, particularly as chair for three years, and provided valuable input during her entire term. We thank Wendy for all her contributions.

Mike Kroon retired from ODF on June 30, 2026. We are grateful for his work with us, both during and between meetings, and will miss both his depth of experience and steady presence. We look forward to welcoming Adam Coble, who is stepping into Mike’s position with ODF and concomitant role as secretary of CFF.

Thoughtful succession planning, balancing the values of historical memory with new perspectives, will be a critical element of CFF’s 2026-2027 workplan. Not only do we need a new Citizen at Large in the immediate future, but three of our four Forest Landowner members are terming out at the end of June 2027.

#### CFF 2025-2026 ex-officio members:

The CFF benefits from the time and expertise of the CFF ex-officio members, and thanks them for their input. They are:

- Amanda Sullivan-Astor for Associated Oregon Loggers (AOL)
- Mike Cafferata for Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA)
- Glenn Ahrens for Oregon State University (OSU) College of Forestry, OSU Extension Forestry and Natural Resources Program
- Julie Woodward for Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI)

## 2025-2026 CFF Activities, Accomplishments, and Recommendations

- SFO Stewardship, Forest Legacy, Incentives and New Revenue Sources. The topics receiving the CFF's greatest attention this past year were those focusing on enumerating the various funding sources that are available to SFOs. Presentations by ODF staff highlighted the need for more direct and consistent engagement of the CFF in both the Forest Legacy and Forest Stewardship programs, including a place on the CFF agenda at least twice annually and inclusion of CFF members on a sub-work group about these programs. The intent is to study them more fully, in concert with ODF staff, and report back to the Department with recommendations to further enhance, advertise, and implement them. Relatedly, Ben Deumling mentioned several times during our meetings over the past year about the ongoing concern of the loss of forestlands across the state. CFF pledged our support to do what we can to help reduce and reverse this loss.
- Compliance Monitoring. CFF sought an update by ODF staff on compliance monitoring, which is an important tool to assess compliance with the Forest Practices Act and to increase public trust in the Act. Completed studies were presented as well as a timeline for upcoming monitoring studies focusing on forest roads, riparian areas and steep slopes. CFF is a conduit to assist in presenting this information to SFOs.
- SFO Reforestation Activities. Reforestation— both post-harvest and post-disturbance— is a major concern and will continue to be a particular focus of the CFF in the coming year. There is concern among groups such as the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA) and Oregon Tree Farm System (OTFS) over the results of the recent reforestation compliance monitoring report. The CFF will seek to find ways to support SFOs in understanding and meeting reforestation requirements. Please see below for our anticipated 2026-27 activities, which include work going forward.
- Private Forest Accord Forest Conservation Tax Credit (FCTC) Program. CFF understands that only about 5% or less of Small Forestland Owners who harvest timber adjacent to their Riparian Management Areas are opting for this credit. CFF wants to know why the participation rate is so low, and how we can help remedy that situation, whether that be providing recommendations for modifications in rule or helping to provide more education about this program.
- Private Forest Accord Relationship to the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). CFF wanted to understand the driving forces behind the Accord and a presentation was given by ODF staff describing the overarching goal of Oregon submitting a Habitat Conservation Plan to the federal government and how the Accord is an integral part of the plan. CFF remains available to assist in any way it can to achieve approval of the HCP.
- Private Forest Accord Adaptive Management Program Committee (AMPC). One of the goals of CFF is to better understand the roles of the AMPC and its affiliated IRST in utilizing science to investigate facets of the Accord that were not addressed during its development. A presentation by ODF staff brought the CFF up to date. CFF is a vital, bi-directional conduit to bring

information about the AMPC to SFOs and suggestions by SFOs of issues to be studied to the AMPC and ultimately to the Board.

- Private Forest Accord Small Forestland Investment in Stream Habitat (SFISH) Program. The CFF has been following the growth of the Private Forest Accord-related SFISH grant program and was briefed on current funding, the projects funded, and the project selection process. The CFF notes the ongoing funding of the SFISH program is an important incentive for SFOs under the Accord; however, we remain concerned about the dwindling pool of funds to properly implement this program.
- Private Forest Accord Stream Mapping & Flow Modeling. A presentation was given to the CFF by ODF staff providing updates to the stream mapping program and the interactions between ODF and ODFW to complete this important task. The emphasis now is on differentiating between perennial (Np) and seasonal (Ns) streams and publishing the results. CFF has a vital role to play here to help inform SFOs about the need to verify the accuracy of the modeled results within SFO-owned properties and provide a mechanism to be able to communicate and correct discrepancies to ensure accurate landowner information in the ODF system.
- Small Forestland Owner Office. The CFF has consistently emphasized the need for a coordinated approach to disseminating information about resources available to SFOs. ODF's buildout of the SFO Office is consistent with this need. CFF discussion identified the need for leadership by the SFO Office in coordinating various organizations in their support for SFOs and in providing access to information and resources. CFF members have talked about the fact that many SFOs are as yet unengaged with ODF, or groups such as OSWA, OTFS, or OSU Extension, and that the SFO Office could be a leader in coordinating outreach to SFOs. The CFF met with ODF staff about how the SFO Office and public affairs staff plan to reach out to SFOs, and CFF provided feedback.

## 2026-2027 Upcoming Activities and Priorities

Issues important to small forest landowners remain largely the same over the years, as reviewed above and enumerated in prior CFF reports. They include the Private Forest Accord (new rules, SFO Office, incentives), technical and financial assistance to landowners, stewardship forester availability, wildfire issues, economic viability (seedlings, markets, workforce, infrastructure), and climate change. The CFF expects to continue its focus on these issues in the coming year. Some specific areas of expected focus, consistent with CFF's general priorities and building on the activities described above, include:

- SFO Stewardship, Forest Legacy, Incentives, and New Revenue Sources. CFF will form a sub-work group, including ODF staff, to study these topics in totality to determine what is working, what is not, how to better advertise to SFOs these sources of funding, and recommendations on how the Department can assist us in achieving the goal of providing complementary revenue sources for SFOs to successfully steward their forestland and minimize those activities by some to convert their forestlands to some other, non-forest use. The CFF will also provide consistent opportunities for the Forest Legacy & Stewardship Program updates on CFF meeting agendas and CFF representation on this sub-work group.
- Private Forest Accord. Continued implementation of the Private Forest Accord is a priority for the CFF, including development of effective and strong landowner incentive programs (including SFISH program funding, and tax credit for riparian management beyond minimum option –

please see above for more on this) through the Small Forestland Owner Assistance Office. As information becomes available about the success of these programs (including the collection of data about the impact of the Accord) the CFF would like to consider and advise on which programs are successful, which are not, and what might need to be adjusted. The CFF has appreciated its meetings with SFO Office leadership and looks forward to continuing to provide input to the SFO Office and informing SFOs about the valuable role the SFO Office plays.

- SFO Reforestation Activities. CFF believes sustained investment in staff capacity (ODF, OSU Extension and Soil & Water Conservation Districts), along with effective Board leadership and coordination of a collaborative effort is needed to provide effective landowner assistance. This should include a focus on improving the seed to seedling pipeline, providing guidance and options for landowners in selecting and acquiring suitable species and seed-sources for a changing climate, enabling timely acquisition of high-quality reforestation services, and providing guidance and options for landowners to find and retain service providers. In essence, there is an intrinsic connection between reforestation success in the present to healthy, resilient forests and reliable timber supply in the future.

Post-fire reforestation assistance is a special case, requiring even more attention. A good example is the rapid response approach developed by a team of ODF and NRCS staff in Eastern Oregon, which was fully implemented after the 2024 wildfires. This included a private lands version of the federal Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) process involving 1) early identification of fire-affected forest landowners, and 2) prompt field site assessments and referrals to NRCS and other sources of assistance. This approach was developed by knowledgeable and dedicated staff (ODF and NRCS) in Eastern Oregon, with no extra allocation of funding. We believe a similar approach is needed to assist SFOs in Western Oregon. If they are not already, the Board and the State Legislature should evaluate this approach for all large fires going forward, including the need for increased funding and dedicated staff capacity to enable this statewide when needed. Elements of the process applied to assist landowners with post-fire reforestation could also be useful for improving landowner success with reforestation after timber harvest in general. We will continue to monitor progress of this critical issue.

- Climate Smart Forestry. The Board Vision refers to climate smart forestry; the CFF would like to engage the Board on what that looks like for SFOs, and to track ODF's Climate Change and Carbon Plan generally. Many SFOs want to become involved in such an important program as this and want to learn more. We suggest setting up a mutually convenient meeting to discuss this and any other topics of mutual interest.
- Governor's Executive Order 25-26 on Resilience. SFOs play a key role in the health and resilience of Oregon's forests and the communities that both rely upon and benefit from their stewardship. Good stewardship is inextricably linked to available and viable infrastructure, both human and economic. Keeping family forests as forests—a line of the CFF charter—demands that CFF have a seat at the table where resilience strategies and losses of forestland are discussed. Relatedly, further and meaningful discussions should be held to address the ongoing loss of forest industry infrastructure, particularly sawmills on the east side. The Governor's Executive order provides an ideal opportunity for creativity and innovation, whether streamlining the PFAP process, expanding the list of acceptable reforestation species, updating smoke management rules to encourage more "good" fire, where appropriate, on the landscape, encouraging a return to local sourcing (Oregon lumber for Oregon building, for example, and

how the positive benefits of the lumber grading bill, SB 1061 are progressing) or expanding programs to engage youth, to name a few.

- CFF is available to help the Board arrange tours of SFO properties and suggests that such tours would be useful to the Board in learning more about how SFOs steward their forestlands. Many SFOs feel left out of policy conversations and undermined in their efforts to actively manage their forests. Holding periodic tours will help to overcome those perceptions.

## Conclusion

The CFF is grateful for the opportunity to engage with the Board and ODF on issues important to Small Forestland Owners. This year's activities have included providing advice and receiving information through presentations and ODF briefings that allow the CFF members to engage in an informed way with the SFO community. A frequent comment at our meetings is "now that we know this, how do we turn this knowledge into action?". We can do so through our work with the Board and community partners to support programs and practices that will contribute to successful small forestlands. As the CFF charter says, SFOs make essential contributions to Oregon's vitality, "including timber availability and the protection and enhancement of watersheds and fish and wildlife habitat.". As the Board and ODF implement the Vision, further develop the Private Forest Accord and the SFO Office, implement the Governor's EO on Resilience, and address ongoing issues such as fire resilience, the CFF stands by to assist and act as a bridge to local communities.

Thank you, Chair Kelly and Board Members, for your service to the State, and for the opportunity to present this report.