



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Forestry  
State Forester's Office  
2600 State St  
Salem, OR 97310-1336  
503-945-7200  
[www.oregon.gov/ODF](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF)

## MEMORANDUM

**To: Board of Forestry members**

**From: Kate Skinner, Interim State Forester**

**May 5, 2025 (Updated May 9, 2025)**

### **Review of Davis Ridge Timber Sale process and timeline**

The purpose of this memorandum is to report back to the Board of Forestry concerning the process and timeline related to the Davis Ridge timber sale on ODF's Astoria District, as requested at the April 23, 2025 Board meeting.

***Please note: This memorandum has been updated to include additional detail requested by board Chair Jim Kelly at the top of page 3.***

### **Public Input and Contacts**

- January 18, 2024 – February 28, 2024: Several email exchanges and an in-person meeting at the Astoria District Office with neighbors and Anna Kaufman of the Astoria Chapter of North Coast Communities for Water Protection.
  - Additionally, neighboring landowners received a letter from the land surveyor contracted by ODF regarding a planned property line survey. At least one adjacent landowner reached out to ODF asking if this meant a harvest was planned and was told yes.
- April 3, 2024: Start of formal public comment period for the FY2025 Annual Operations Plan that included the Davis Ridge sale.
  - Anna Kaufman was provided with the draft AOP and the public comment link directly at the start of the comment period. Email exchanges between Ms. Kaufman and ODF continued throughout the 45-day public comment period.
- May 18, 2024: Public comment period closes for the FY2025 Annual Operations Plan. Davis Ridge was one of a handful of proposed sales in the AOP that generated significant interest and comments, both from adjacent landowners, conservation groups and through coordinated email campaigns.
- June 27, 2024 – The property was walked with concerned neighbors, NCCWP representatives, former Board of Forestry member Bob Van Dyk and district staff.
- July 1 – Annual Operations Plan approved
- July 2 – Letter was sent to adjacent landowners notifying them that the sale was approved in the AOP and providing a timeline for next steps in the harvest

process, including that the sale would be auctioned in either January or February 2025.

It's very likely two specific portions of this letter created confusion and misaligned expectations about future meetings between ODF and adjacent landowners.

First, the letter stated field foresters would *"meet with adjacent landowners that have expressed the desire to do so."*

Based on previous exchanges with ODF staff, it would be reasonable for several adjacent landowners to assume that they had already clearly expressed the desire to meet and that ODF staff would be contacting them to coordinate.

The letter ends with: *"If you have any questions or concerns, I or my staff would be happy to meet with you about operational considerations on-site with a one-on-one visit or communicate via phone...or email."*

*For initial outreach, please contact Brad Catton, District Operations Coordinator" and includes his phone number and email address."*

It would also be reasonable for ODF staff to assume the closing language of the letter communicated their expectation that adjacent landowners contact them after receiving the letter if interested in any additional meetings.

ODF did not receive any contact from adjacent landowners as a result of the letter. While there were a few brief exchanges with adjacent landowners and other residents around the site in the months following the letter, regular exchanges with adjacent landowners did not resume until April 2025.

In the intervening time, sale preparation was completed (Fall 2024) and submitted to Salem (December 2024).

There were several changes to the operational plans as a result of meetings and conversations with neighbors:

- ODF selected leave-trees in the area to border the adjacent to property line.
  - Buffer extended up to the ridge, so from the homes adjacent they will not be able to see the harvest unit.
- Marked specific large cedar trees that landowners noted they wanted left.
  - Also provided a neighboring landowner with cedar seedlings following an in-person discussion in the sale area.
- Changed haul route to remove both rock and logging haul via a route that's away from adjacent homes.
- Added timing restrictions so that operations only occur between 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

Ultimately, the auction of the timber sale that adjacent landowners were informed was planned for January or February 2025 did not occur until March 18, 2025.

**Update:** During the public comments portion of the April 23, 2025 board meeting, commenters quoted part of an email from Dan Goody, Astoria District Forester, related to the timing of the Davis Ridge auction sent on January 22, 2025:

*“I left you a voicemail about auctioning the Davis Ridge Timber Sale in March, with the goal of selling prior to the FY26 AOP public comment period. This will save a bunch of grief during public comment.”*

The perception that the Davis Ridge auction was expedited to circumvent the required public comment process for each year’s AOPs was understandably concerning to board members. However, Davis Ridge was included in the FY25 AOP, which completed its 45-day public comment period in May 2024 and was approved in July 2024. Mr. Goody’s intent behind the message above was to avoid submission of high volumes of comments about the Davis Ridge sale due to the unnecessary additional workload for staff in processing unrelated comments unrelated to the FY26 AOP.

After the timber sale sold, adjacent landowners reached out to ODF on April 9 for an “update” and subsequently requested a meeting with staff. That meeting occurred April 14 on site. ODF staff provided attendees with a meeting summary and exchanged follow-up emails until April 22. Three adjacent landowners testified at the Board of Forestry’s meeting on April 23. A follow-up onsite meeting is scheduled for May 5.

### **Fiscal Year 2026, Annual Operations Plan Communications**

The State Forest Division has begun the public comment period for the fiscal year 2026 Annual Operations Plans and have made improvements from past procedures. Letters were sent to every private landowner (industrial, small woodland, and homeowner, etc) that shared a property line with a planned timber sale prior to the beginning of the public comment period. In the letter there is a direct contact point listed and each district commits to engagement with landowners who request it, through either the public comment period or direct contact with a District. There are also links to the annual operations plans webpage that include summary documents, maps, and detailed pre-operations reports for planned activities.

cc: Mike Wilson, State Forest Division Chief  
Don Everingham, NW Oregon Area Director  
Dan Goody, Astoria District Forester