



Committee for Family Forestlands

Meeting Summary for September 14th, 2023



Under public notice made by news release with statewide distribution, a meeting of the Committee for Family Forestlands [an advisory body to the Oregon Board of Forestry with authority established in Oregon Revised Statute 527.650] was convened on September 14th, 2023 as a virtual online meeting. Meeting recordings constitute the official record.

CFF Committee members participating:

Wendy Gerlach, Citizen-At-Large (Voting)
Gary Jensen, Southern Oregon Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Kate McMichael, Landowner-At-Large Rep. (Voting)
Kaola Swanson, Conservation Rep. (Voting)
Dave Bugni, Northwest Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Eric Kranzush, Industry rep (Voting)
Glenn Ahrens, OSU College of Forestry Ext. Ex-Officio
Julie Woodward, OFRI Ex-Officio
Rick Zenn, OSWA Executive Administrator Ex-Officio

ODF Staff attending:

Heather Hendersen, Administrative Specialist
Mike Kroon, Deputy Chief – All Lands
Josh Hanson, SFISH Coordinator
Angela Malcolm-Stucker, SFO Implementation Coordinator
Emily Gregorio, Administrative Specialist

Members not in attendance:

Maurizio Valerio, EO Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Amanda Sullivan-Astor, Forest Policy Manager AOL Ex-Officio

Guests/Public:

Theresa Hausser
Eric Farm
Dan Miller
Larry Wannebo

Chair Comments.

- Chair Gerlach calls the meeting to order.
- Asks for comments on the agenda/meeting minutes.
- Recognized a quorum was established.
- Asks for public comment.
- Moved on to chair updates.

Division update.

- Mike provides updates on the Forest Resource Division.
- Gary Jensen – Looking at the burning that is being discussed, for control burns there is some discussion about doing control burns in certain areas, does ODF approve those burns?
 - Mike Kroon – I don't know enough about this to provide a solid answer to this question
 - Gary Jensen – Personally don't feel it's good to do until we see changes in the moisture for the vegetation, etc.
- Dave – Does the website for the seed orchard have information regarding seed sources including quantities that can be ordered?
 - Can order whatever seed you would like. For any questions Don K is a great contact.
- Rick Zenn – When is the training going to be for the consulting foresters? Would be happy to help put something together if it's not on the calendar. Also, was here last week for the Board of Forestry meeting, thought that the CFF portion was the best presentation for the two days.
 - Mike – Will get Rick in contact with people to help with this.

- Wendy – There was an article talking about the transition of the rules, it is important to have the new rules be combined with information about the incentives, making sure the consulting foresters know about those things. Know what programs are available, where to find the forms for assistance.
- OFRI published a report called Common Ground with a nice section on SFOs.
 - Link to report: https://oregonforests.org/sites/default/files/2023-08/OFRI_PFAreport_DIGITAL.pdf
- Wendy – Adaptive Management Committee, one of the things being worked on is looking at the disconnecting between roads and water and how the committee can direct the research team on those topics. Not a lot of agreement on how to get data, really should look into how to include small landowners and how they can be helpful.
 - Kate McMichael – It would be really interesting to have a presentation on what that is all about.

SFISH Technical Guidance and Road Conditions Assessment Technical Guidance Review.

- Josh Hanson provides an PowerPoint presentation on the SFISH Technical Guidance.
 - Please review documentation that will be sent out and return to Heather Hendersen by October 6, 2023.
 - Rick Zenn – How does this fit in with the RFPC? Do they get a shot at this?
 - Mike Kroon – It currently is only set for CFF to review, we can add RFPC if needed.
 - Emily Gregorio – RFPC was informed that these details would be discussed in CFF and given the opportunity to join the meeting if they wanted to provide feedback.
 - Wendy Gerlach – Provide feedback here first and if RFPC has opinions can be done as a second phase.
 - Dave Bugni – Is there a way to provide another week for review? Or is there something critical between the October 6th and January 1st period?
 - Josh Hanson - This time allows for us to digest it all and reach back out if needed.
 - Wendy Gerlach – Do we want to add a special meeting to the agenda to discuss this? Push out the deadline of October 6th one week (October 13th) and then have a special meeting mid November? Or Late October?
 - Heather Hendersen will send out the technical guidance, CFF will review, send in comments and then have a special meeting.
 - Gary Jensen – Is there any way to have actual training that puts these details in front of the landowners so that they know the exact process and expectations?
 - Mike Kroon – Yes, at this moment there is training for the SFOs and they are being informed of the requirements and training/outreach is part of that.
- Glen Ahrens – Given as we go down the road this technical guidance, what kind of periodic review/revision occurs as we get input?
- Kaola Swanson – Really appreciate the discussion, the questions are on how do you do the train the trainers, and outreach. It feels like there is the department’s training and also the outreach is OSWA also a place where questions can be funneled and such to the department to get everyone informed? How is the coordination going?
- Wendy Gerlach – Washington has a great website that would be a good example of linking and how to find information.

Board Of Forestry Update.

- Ben Deumling provides update on the Board of Forestry.
- The current draft of the Vision for Oregon’s Forests (Previously FPFO) can be found on the ODF website.

- Ben Deumling - Have a draft this fall of the plan to have a longer agenda item for CFF's next meeting to discuss CFF's involvement and how they can be more involved.
- Eric Kranzush – Could we add this to the special meeting to discuss this along with the technical guidance?
- Wendy Gerlach – Have the board thought about the media presence and is that going how the board would like?

Forest Conservation Tax Credit Technical Guidance Review.

- Angela Malcolm-Stucker provides an update on Forest Conservation Tax Credit.
- Heather Hendersen will send out PDF that Angela Malcolm-Stucker presented.
- Rick Zenn – Are all the worksheets kind of figured out that will be used? Are they all finished?
 - Not all of them, most of them are ready to go.
- David Bugni – Is there a way to measure how effective this program will be?
 - Will be collecting data to report on this. It's a very unique tax credit program as it never expires and has multiple ways it can be used. There has not been a mandate on how information is report but there will be a report provided, just unclear how that will look.
- Eric Kranzush – How long would this process take for a small landowner from start to finish?
 - Depends on variables, they have 90 days to get documentation over, will work quickly to get the forester out to view the property and then it depends on the landowner to file the documents.
- Kate McMichael – What can that be used to pay?
- Wendy Gerlach – Can you speak more on the mapping and how that works?
 - Depends on the landowner to complete in FERNS.
- Rick Zenn - One of the benefits of this tax credit is that the expense of the appraisal can be included.
- Wendy Gerlach – Any issues around co-ownerships?
 - Details will be hashed out later on how the credit will be applied but it is up to the landowners on how they will divide the credit once provided.
- Eric Kranzush – Are tax credits transferable?
 - If someone buys the land, no. If inherited, yes. If someone buys the land and wants to have the restriction removed this is allowed if they pay back the credit with interest.
- Rick Zenn – The Department should be aware this will have a lot of scrutiny, tax credits in Oregon are always controversial. Make sure we are following the law and the results are representative of that.
- Kate McMichael – I can see people being concerned, are there guarantees that it will always be there? Important to address this in fact sheets.
 - There are rules within the bill that guarantee the credit.

Tax Assistance Documents for Small Forestland Owners.

- Discussion on what can be provided to landowners to help understand the taxes and where they go.
- Rick Zenn – There is a whole course on the taxes on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4haBCSzSt3g>
- Kate McMichael – Really being able to understand the taxes and how they are applied and what they do could be extremely helpful. Having documents that help us to understand would be incredibly interesting and important.
- Wendy Gerlach – No real action item for the committee. There are resources that can be used independently to investigate these items.

- Dave Bugni – It would be interesting to get an overview again on how there is legislation to adjust the value of the forest products harvest tax, to shift more of the burden onto small woodland owners, so that more people can be aware as there are not a lot of options out there for education on this.
 - Wendy Gerlach – Let’s ask Julie Woodward at the next meeting.

Roundtable.

- Dave Bugni – On the “are your fish good enough” topic, it’s really important because with climate change we need to find out where waters are cooler/warmer, and we are updating barrier maps as there are a lot of errors in these. So being able to show accurate data on where fish blockages are to help fish to move to other streams matters. This goes to the importance of having that accurate database so when you make those decisions on how worth while is this project the data can really show how it is doing. Good to get a effort to update the statewide maps.
- Gary Jensen – How do we get a headcount of our small forestland owners? Where are we on people impacted or people on ownership? Is there a means by which we can get a pretty significant count?
 - Mike Kroon - It’s more complicated than you would think it would be. In the past this has been attempted and there are counties that refuse to discuss the landowners, etc. Sizes change all the time so keeping track is incredibly difficult. Will check with planning branch to see if they have plans to do this again.
 - Glenn Ahrens – It’s doable with GIS help to look at anyone with a certain amount of acres and view them as a small forestland owner.
 - Josh Hanson – We are required to create a database of small forestland owners.
- Glenn Ahrens – Update from extension, doing a lot of searches for new faculty. Just hired a new Lynn Benton/Polk County Extension Forester. Still have several other counties that are vacant. All kinds of changes/new things happening and growth going on in the organization. Having a Tree School Field Day on October 7th.
- Kate McMichael – There is a new Master Woodland Manager, Women Owning Woodland Network Coordinator that just started. Master Woodland Manager Course will be in the spring in Lane County.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor Email: Lots happening at AOL, but I think the most relevant thing to share is our intent to pass a workforce study bill during the short legislative session. It is still being contemplated, but we hope to have it in a place that is sharable by the next meeting 😊 We are also working on a new grant program out of USDA to help with forestry workforce challenges.

Also, I will be headed to DC at the end of the month for AOL and we are working hard to remove federal barriers that restrict financial viability of a biomass market in Oregon for renewable energy production (electricity, liquid fuels and hydrogen). Creating a new market and growing current markets in this space could be of huge help to small woodland owners who may not need to remove much if any commercial material from their land to achieve their desired condition or fuels mitigation goals.
- Dave Bugni – OSU Extension produced a set of harvest pollinating videos. They are really well done, they talk about how forest land owners can easily improve their property for pollinators.
- Kate McMichael – Really interesting and relevant information to hear from Mike Shaw on Fire Protection during the Board of Forestry meeting. Getting that recap could be useful as an agenda item.
- Heather Hendersen will send out doodle poll for special meeting date.