



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

Committee for Family Forestlands Meeting Summary for January 11th, 2024



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 January 11th, 2024, as a virtual online meeting. Meeting recordings constitute the official record.

CFF Committee members participating:**Oregon Department of Forestry Staff attending:**

Wendy Gerlach, Citizen-At-Large (Voting)
Gary Jensen, Southern Oregon Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Kate McMichael, Landowner-At-Large Rep. (Voting)
Rick Zenn, OSWA Executive Administrator Ex-Officio
Glenn Ahrens, OSU College of Forestry Ext. Ex-Officio
Amanda Astor, Forest Policy Manager AOL Ex-Officio
Dave Bugni, NW Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Maurizio Valerio, EO Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Eric Kranzush, (Voting)
Kaola Swanson, Conservation Rep. (Voting)

Heather Hendersen, Administrative Specialist
Mike Kroon, Deputy Chief – All Lands
Scott Swearingen, Field Support Manager
Josh Hanson, SFISH Coordinator
Terry Frueh, Adaptive Management Coordinator
Megan Cogswell, Adaptive Management, Training, and Enforcement Manager

Members not in attendance:**Guests/Public:**

Julie Woodward, OFRI Ex-Officio

Ben Deumling, Board of Forestry Member
Brian McDowell, Business Oregon
Jay Tate
Eric Metcalf
A.M. Wilson

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.
 - Brian McDowell (in chat) Hi, everyone. Sorry to pop in unannounced. I am just attending for the first few topics. I am a Regional Development Officer with Business Oregon covering Baker, Union, and Willowa counties. I cover timber and forestry in my region.
- Moved on to chair updates.
- Request for update of the CFF Charter.
 - <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/board/Pages/cff.aspx>

Division update.

- Mike Kroon provides update on Forest Resource Division.
- Dave Bugni – What is the difference between SFO Assistance and SFO Support?

Small Forestland Owner Office Update.

- Mike Kroon provides update on the Small Forestland Owner Office.
 - <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/working/pages/sfo.aspx>
- Wendy Gerlach – What kind of landowners are we seeing applying for the SFISH program?
 - Josh Hanson provides a brief overview of the type of landowners that have applied.
- Dave Bugni – Will SFISH be a reimbursement type program or pay ahead of time?
 - Josh Hanson – SFISH will have an advanced payment option for those that want to participate.
- Rick Zenn – Can you give a snapshot of what the average cost of one of these projects is?
 - Josh Hanson – Still working on getting an idea on this. Will get back once more solid data is available.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – How will you identify the individuals for the scoring committee? AOL is engaged right now with the Department of Forestry to do a comprehensive survey for cost of projects. We are looking into getting survey data hopefully by the end of March.
 - Josh Hanson – This was laid out in the technical guidance for SFISH.
- Wendy Gerlach – Interested in where these projects are coming from, based on the technical guidance, I believe some are from Oregon Department of Forestry and some are from individual landowners coming forward. Curious how the projects get to Oregon Department of Forestry?
 - Josh Hanson – Don't have the information in front of me but some is through Oregon Department of Forestry foresters' engagement or outreach. Some through news outlets. Consulting foresters and watershed counsels are spreading the word as well.
- Eric Kranzush – Are you seeing a lot of these applications as a one-off type thing or are you seeing more of them being a part of a larger project? Are you seeing them as leveraging where matches or maybe other grants may be involved?
 - Josh Hanson – Haven't seen a coordinated effort yet, may see this come in over time.
- Dave Bugni – Is there a plan to keep in real time an update to track the changes to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Fish Passageway maps?
 - Josh Hanson – Yes, working with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to see how we can improve the database and the standards associated with that.

Private Forest Accord Update.

- Scott Swearingen provides updates on the Private Forest Accord and the technical guidance.
 - <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/working/pages/fpa.aspx>
 - <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/working/Pages/findaforester.aspx>
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – Does the online training provide a certificate?
 - Scott Swaringen - Yes, it's through Workday and those typically provide certification.

- Rick Zenn – One of the documents that we have found really useful is the illustrated guide, can you talk about where we are with that and where it falls with Oregon Department of Forestry work?
 - Scott Swearingen – We have a person on the coordination group working with OFRI. Should be coming out fairly soon, but don't have a date.
- Eric Kranzush – Encourage to continue training statewide as more of the technical guidance rolls out.
- Wendy Gerlach – On the RCA and the parcel definition, was wondering what happened on that?
 - Mike Kroon – Definition stays as is, what was agreed upon was there is the 180-day extension.

Board of Forestry Update.

- Ben Deumling provides update on the Board of Forestry.
- Ben Deumling - What is a landowners responsibility to the greater good of Oregon to take care of their forests? What role should the Board/Department play in calling for intentionally taking care of your forests?
 - Kate McMichael – The term of management brings up an awful lot of feeling in what it actually means. The ownership of Oregon's forests isn't the state or private landowners, the management or lack there of is also a big issue on the reality of the forests.
 - Dave Bugni – When speaking of intentional management what does that really mean? What it really boils down to is education and love of your place. If you want to make headway you need to help landowners understand the obligations to their property.
 - Amanda Sullivan-Astor – Make sure that if you include a vision statement that you have the follow through to see it to fruition. Also note that in SB762, there is a legal requirement that they have to follow.
 - Rick Zenn – The idea of education, and part of that is education on values. That is likely the portal that will open this up. Want to see voluntary and that people know the value and step forward. Also, incentivize. But the responsibility of rule vs. guidance, etc. but those worried of government overreach are going to be a slippery slope so finding the right education is the pathway.
 - Maurizio Valerio – Not much of what is the responsibility of landowners, when you own the land, you actually own a piece of paper and deed. Gives you the opportunity to do a few things. The better question is what is our relationship with the land upon which we live every day and the context for the things which we do?
 - Kate McMichael – Highlighting the quality of relationship, we are in relationship to the land and the land is in relationship to us. Is this ideal relationship in embracing this relationship with the land or is this a regulatory thing? Some may read a vision statement as a vision and some may view it as what is this, what are they telling me to do? Walking that line is a hard thing to do.
 - Gary Jensen – This will be a complex process and comes down to some form of land management plan, and if you go into enforcement, it becomes a regulatory process. You are right on education, but the other part I see is a tremendous outreach program that will provide incentive and financial support for landowners.
 - Mike Kroon – Amanda mentioned SB762, part of that brought out the 20-year strategy. How will this tie into the Vision for Oregon's Forests?

- Ben Deumling – The 20-year strategy is discussed after the four goals that have been stated within the Vision for Oregon’s Forests. It is shown as an actionable element of the vision.
 - Eric Kranzush – View the vision as a motivational piece and crafting the language of the document is an important piece of that.
 - Amanda Sullivan-Astor – Most people don’t know this because it’s happening internally, but at AOL we are going through a positioning branding process, we are trying to decide what our pillars are so in a sense what we are doing is like what the boards pillars are for Oregon Department of Forestry. From the outside looking in what is the story you want to tell the public on what is happening?
 - Wendy Gerlach – Having an initial general, more abstract vision in the vision document -- an overarching vision -- will be important, followed by specifics like tools to achieve the vision and incentive goals.
 - Kaola Swanson – Is there already built in or are you thinking about the history of Oregon’s forests? What it means, why is forestry important to everyone?
 - Rick Zenn – The other part is embracing diversity, if someone is not “managing” their property it isn’t the end of the world, it may end up being helpful. Embracing the diversity of we don’t have to be doing the same thing at the same time may be a guiding light.
 - Amanda Sullivan-Astor – Mike had asked about the federal land piece, if the board and department consult with the federal lands why are you not consulting with the other landowners of how this vision does or doesn’t come to life? Within the communities piece there is some language in here about workforce and whether or not managed lands can cover the associated cost of the workforce, where did this come from?
 - Kate McMichael – Intentionality is key, and thinking about who the partners are and another great partner is the Tree Farm System.
- Ben Deumling provides information on Oregon’s Kitchen Table involvement and the insight it provided to the board.
 - Kaola Swanson (in chat) - That's where I wish there was more opportunity for shared education and tours-- OSU Extension and OFRI do a wonderful job with forest owners, but how do we engage more of the general public when there are very strong opinions without much exposure or access to being on the ground, working with forest managers, etc. Can the FOPO help with materials or references in the stage setting?
 - Eric Kranzush – Where do all these survey questions land in the grand scheme?
 - Kate McMichael – Another one of these tensions on how we get more people in the woods to feel safer, but the reality is the more people we have the less safe it can become.
 - Maurizio Valerio – If the word responsibility will be kept as a crucial part of this, I think a part of what is the responsibility to private ownership and public?

Discuss Upcoming Agenda Topics and Meeting Schedule.

- March meeting will be moved to 11 am on the 21st
- June meeting will be moved to the 26th

- September meeting will be moved to the 11th

Adaptive Management Program Committee Review.

- Terry Frueh provides PowerPoint presentation on Adaptive Management Program Committee.
- Eric Kranzush – What is your comfort level with the current Adaptive Management research asks, IRSTs cost to then study? Do you have a feel if we have adequate funding?
- Wendy Gerlach – Just wanted to stress the point of how this impacts small landowners and how they may be involved in future items.
- Terry Frueh provides a slight overview of the difference between adaptive management and compliance monitoring.

Roundtable.

- Kate McMichael – Can we more consciously make connections with Oregon Tree Farms system? Some issues I have heard are:
 - Wondering if redwood could be added to the list of acceptable species for reforestation.
 - was whether the ditch relief culvert size (at 18” minimum) was actually more than necessary.
 - Having struggles working with their SFO Foresters with site visits and not being able to make it due to conflicts but also not able to accept photographic evidence related to stream flow (or lack of it) depending on season/recent rainfall.
 - Agenda Items:
 - The seed orchard would be more interesting to hear about.
 - Also hearing more from Federal Forest Restoration Program and the Urban and Community Forest Program.
- Dave Bugni – The biggest benefit for tree farms is certification. Ways this committee can get the word out about the importance of the certification would be worthwhile to talk about. Regarding species replacement, instead of that look at variety replacement.
- Glen Ahrens – Following up on what Kate and Dave are saying, this is a topic we have discussed but is really important. Want to mention that OSU Extension is undertaking a Landowner Experience After Fire study. We are hoping to gain a lot of insight from landowners and some things already coming up are I bet a lot of landowners are meeting reforestation requirements, maybe something for Oregon Department of Forestry to look into.
- Gary Jensen – Hearing some commentary on the Governor’s committee on fire costs and how they are paid for. There is talk about property tax being added. Is this going to cover all taxes and property or just for Forests? I’ve said before and we have had talks on this, we are not doing a very good job on communicating with private landowners who are not connected to groups or extensions.
- Dave Bugni – One potential avenue for more communication would be if other OSU extension agents would be willing to share in a common communication to hit more of the missing population.
- Chair Gerlach closes the meeting.