



# Committee for Family Forestlands Meeting Summary for March 21, 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 March 21, 2024, as a hybrid 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)  
Rick Zenn, OSWA Executive Administrator Ex-Officio  
Glenn Ahrens, OSU College of Forestry Ext. Ex-Officio  
Amanda Sullivan-Astor, Forest Policy Manager AOL Ex-Officio  
David Bugni, NW Landowner Rep. (Voting)  
Kaola Swanson, Conservation Rep. (Voting)  
Maurizio Valencio, EO Landowner Rep. (Voting)  
Eric Kranzush, Industry rep (Voting) Hampton Family Forests

---

**ODF Staff attending:**

Heather Hendersen, Administrative Specialist  
Mike Kroon, Deputy Chief – All Lands  
Miriam Miller, Administrative Specialist  
Yarrow Cervantes, Public Affairs Specialist  
Nicole Stapp, Policy Lead  
Tim Hoffman, Public Affairs Officer  
Sam Schoch, Forest Management Technician  
Don Kaczmarek, Geneticist  
Casara Nichols, JE Schroeder Seed Orchard Manager

---

**Members not in attendance:**

Julie Woodward, OFRI Ex-Officio

---

**Guests/Public:**

Richard Beers  
Margaret Miller, OFRI  
Dennis Boyer  
Ben Deumling, Board of Forestry Member

---

**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 division update.
- Nicole Stapp provides legislature update and presentation on post-disturbance logging rules.
- Dave Bugni – One suggestion, there is a lot of technical stuff in here and for those that are not really involved in the development here it is incumbent on those to ask a lot of questions. Maybe ODF can add graphics to explain what is going on here. For a lot of folks, it may be a lot of jargon so this could help to better understand what is going on here.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – Will there be technical guidance developed for these rules or will a current one be amended?
  - Nicole Stapp – At minimum will need to adjust current technical guidance.
- Eric Kranzush – The language that was presented here was a settlement between the PFA authors, and I understand it is going through its process for rule making. How much revision will be accruing associated with that since it was a negotiated item?

- Nicole Stapp – We are at a point where the board has seen the draft rules and they have made some of the rule making decisions there. The point of the public comment period is to have the chance to hear about things we may not have thought about.
- Kate McMichael – Where, if I wanted to go try and read through the rules, would I go to look and see what might be coming down the pike?
  - Nicole Stapp – On the ODF website under the about section called [Proposed Laws and Rules](#) it is listed there.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – Is there from an Small Forestland Owner perspective, is there anything along the lines of a disproportionate impact piece of the rule making?
  - Nicole Stapp – We didn't anticipate there being a disproportionate impact. If this should be the case, we would be interested in hearing about it.
- Eric Kranzush – One of the things presented was about the 36 positions that were converted to full time, are those exclusively in Forest Resources or are the spread out?
  - Mike Kroon – The majority are in Forest Resources, but there are about half a dozen are not. All are federally funded positions. These are positions that were already existing, we just made them permanent.

### **Fire Protection Funding/Fire Map Discussion.**

- Ron Graham discusses Fire Protection Funding.
- Dave Bugni – Wanted to echo what Ron was saying with how complicated fire funding is. Will send the presentation done on this topic to the group to see what exactly is going on to Wendy for distribution to the group.
- Gary Jensen – As we go through a lot of these planning process, we don't really address the revenue stream needed for fire. When we reduce the harvest levels, we reduce the taxation off the timber revenues that you see coming in, and those are declining from our perspective. There is a greater need to go to the public and the state to request them to provide revenue streams to maintain fire codes and structures as well as provide for emergency needs.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – The new workgroup, developed through the budget note, will there be emphasis on bringing people in and putting focus on the fact they will need to help solve this problem, which some of has been created by their own advocacy efforts.
- Maurizio Valerio – Could be one of the focus points of our committee in that this discussion needs to move from Small Forestland Owners to the general public. The solution is not there yet, but awareness of the problem is important.
- Eric Kranzush – One of the things I want to continue to stress is where is fire coming from? Fire is becoming an all-Oregon problem.
- Rick Zenn – One of the things is the budget note for Steiner even though it was small has a lot more stakeholders than were involved in the short session, in many ways it was great for democracy but in many ways, it will also be more complex and will be a big job. Having served on that working group, there is such a wide diversity of Small Forestland Owners in Oregon.
- Margaret Miller (in chat) - Is there granular data on the source of ignition that could help to accomplish what Amanda was mentioned? for instances is it escaped burning on forestland/wui, recreation related, roadways?
- Kate McMichael – This will be something that will continue to be a great concern, so us being engaged as a committee will continue to be important but still making sure the conversation stays broad enough.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – What was the bill number for that?
  - SB5701
- Ron Graham discusses Fire Map.
- Wendy Gerlach – What is the purpose of the map?

- Ron Graham - A map that a homeowner can go reference to see what the chances of wildfire is on impacting them.
- Maurizio Valerio – Landowners are receiving cancelation notices from their insurance company because of the fire risk map. There was a bill passed that addressed this issue, but the reality on the ground is that this is what is happening today.

#### **Oregon Department of Forestry Communication Efforts with SFOs.**

- Tim Hoffman and Yarrow Cervantes provide information on the SFO communication.
- Rick Zenn – We get a lot of requests from vendors on promoting their business. Could you talk a bit on privacy and protection on these Small Forestland Owners lists?
  - Tim Hoffman – I will do a little more research on this as most of our stuff is subject to public information requests.
  - Yarrow Cervantes – Those mailing lists are for press releases and such, so if you are not comfortable signing up to that list there are other avenues by going to the SFO link on our website to find that information.
- Dave Bugni – Suggest that the local OSWA chapters have newsletters, maybe send it to them to have it published in their newsletters.
- Maurizio Valerio – Commend the ODF website, but sometimes it is hard to find things, even when searching. Maybe post in multiple places or that the search box works to get you to where you need to be.
- Margaret Miller – Could you use the “Know Your Forest” web page?
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – Is this half page done?
  - Yarrow Cervantes – Yes, it was just meant to be a quick product to be done for Tree School, if there is a desire to do an off-shoot product, we could investigate that.

#### **Vote for term renewal.**

- Chair Gerlach motions for new, successor terms for Maurizio, Kate and Gary.
- Dave Bugni seconds the motion.
- Unanimous decision to put Maurizio, Kate, and Gary forward to the Board for appointment to new terms.

#### **Board of Forestry Update.**

- Ben Deumling provides update on the Vision for Oregon document.
- Ben Deumling – One thing I am still wrestling with is the fire goal and would like to get some feedback. Initially it was called wildfire and acknowledging that fire is often something we are trying to put out but sometimes is what we are trying to prescribe, and it can be complex. How do we frame fire and the complex topic that it is?
  - Wendy Gerlach – The conversations hinge on underlying facts and what you think they are. One topic that comes up a lot is the data and where fires begin. A critical part of defining fire is where does fire start?
  - Kate McMichael – Like the idea of it being about fire vs. wildfire as this is a document for all Oregonians not just small woodland owners. There is a notion of “all fire is bad” then it flipped to “all fire is good” so the need for education, to cover different types of fire. So, starting as just fire makes it broader before you focus in.
  - Gary Jensen – I look at fire as a management tool, it has the capacity to prevent future wildfires. It is a viable tool that has a place in our resource management.

- Rick Zenn – The work of Keep Oregon Green and those messages are important and stopping human caused fires is a big deal. That is something that the education never ends. The idea of living with fire, fire is not going away, and we need to be prepared to handle it in all its different forms.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – I would have a little concern on turning it to fire vs wildfire, I would tie in maybe to wildfire and the specific experts of protection.
- Kate McMichael – I do see the point and the conflict you are raising. But since this document isn't just for people who are in the business of caring for forests, I don't think that everyone who doesn't put out their campfire because they don't want to get their hands dirty understands that that can become a wildfire. I think understanding that fire is a bigger topic than just wildfire, it impacts all of us and not just those who are paying for fire protection.
- Margaret Miller (in Chat) - What about wildfire resiliency and the responsible use of fire. (the stress on responsible) In my opinion resiliency is not just on the landscape but also on the community and people themselves.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – Ben could you go over the different priorities for those that may not know.
  - Ben Deumling – There are 5, resilient forests, resilient communities, climate leadership, fire/wildfire, and operational excellence.
- Gary Jensen – When we talk about fire, in the state of Oregon, you cannot ignore our federal agencies, as they have a dominance of the land, and what their management plans are for fire suppression and management.
- Wendy Gerlach – Under resilient forests, comes issues related to federal endangered species and water quality, where it no longer becomes an issue for just Oregon but at a federal level as well.
- Margaret Miller (in chat) - sounds like RX burning may be able to fall within the responsible operation one.
- Maurizio Valerio – We don't have to teach a forest on how to be resilient, what the complexity is, is when the people get involved in that. Resilience comes with bouncing back from an emergency. It is important to underline how nature is humble, but very resilient.
- Kate McMichael (in chat) – Ethan Tapper - <https://www.youtube.com/@HowToLoveAForest/featured>
- Maurizio Valerio – We had a saying in Italy which was “An earthquake will never kill you, your house will.”
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – Can you explain what additional partner input means?
  - Ben Deumling – I would suggest that you speak with Joy. Will come officially to CFF eventually.
  - Amanda follow-up, what does the future of the subcommittee look like?
- Ben Deumling – Any comments on big picture topics on what the Board should be looking at next.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – Should we hold a special meeting to make comments on this topic? Or send to the committee and get comments via email?
- Wendy Gerlach – Let's discuss at the round table.

### **Forest Genetics and Climate Change.**

- Don Kaczmarek provides PowerPoint on Forest Genetics and Climate Change.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – Do we have any indication of what the CO2 was before 1300? Or do we have any information for what caused the shift to the little ice age or from the little ice age?
- Heather or Miram will send out a copy of the PowerPoint presentation.
- Wendy Gerlach – What percentage of trees planted each year are from the Seed Orchard seed bank?
- Dave Bugni – I have two questions. First being for SFOs trying to plan 30-50 years down the road is what to plant? If you have an area that is a western hemlock zone, some folks wanted to do whole stand species replacements, but instead of that maybe planting a more future climate capable species, coming from your seed

collection what are your thoughts on that? The second question is to convey this to the common landowner do you have a link for a simple pamphlet that conveys this?

- Maurizio Valerio – You mentioned G3 being available in 2030, if you need a testing plot on the Eastern side of the state, if I'm still alive, send as many trees as you like. The other thing is the Western side of the state does not need a lot of research but on the East side we do, this is a little bit of hope.
- Glenn Ahrens – A lot of the small woodland associations do their own seedling programs, I was wondering if they should be working with seed that you have? Do you know if any of the different seedling sales, are they contacting you to get seeds?
  - Don Kaczmarek – Yes, some of them do.
- Margaret Miller (in chat) - This is all very interesting. In your presentation you mentioned increased photosynthesis as a result of increase CO<sub>2</sub>. I've always thought there was a saturation point, caused by some enzyme, where the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> no longer allowed trees to capitalize on it. Have I always had this wrong?
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – First question, you are talking about different generations and plots, at what point do you do a clear cut? What is the management? Second question, talking about assessing root traits, how do you do that on large trees?

#### **Topics for future CFF meetings.**

- Wendy Gerlach – Dave Bugni mentioned stream crossings. Dave, you mentioned you have a presentation you had given so we could find someone to discuss that, or you could possibly provide yourself. Another topic was Salmon/fishes biology, water shade particulate issues. Another topic mentioned was Steep Slopes and the beneficial/non-beneficial effects of slope movements and harvest practices on them. Also, mentioned logging roads and run off as other possible topics.
- Dave Bugni – I think what I was getting at there is as the PFA gets instituted there is a whole lot of misinformation out there on these topics so to help us to get the word out, if we can all work from a common platform that could help us to understand the various size of these topics.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – One idea would be interesting if we had ODFW present or a combo of ODF/ODFW do a presentation or workshop of the perennality surveys and getting more in the details as we move into the second phase of the work. A second idea is on timber markets, having someone come speak, for example Forest to Market came and spoke to the Board of Forestry. Just thinking about where markets are at, how small forestlands fit in there. Steve Courtney and Gordon Culbertson may be good contacts.
- Margaret Miller (in chat) - With that maybe a presentation on how timber harvest projections are made?
- Glenn Ahrens – On the topic of seedlings, tying into Don's presentation sourcing seeds is still an issue and a big demand for seedlings and taking what you can get. Picking up this topic and focusing on it and going to the next step could be important. Less on just the topic but how to incorporate a program going forward to assist with this work that is needed. How we can make the connections, develop the pipeline, etc.
- Maurizio Valerio – Going back to what Amanda was saying with the Forest to Market, a bigger umbrella issue is are there other niches that we have seen working, or bold attempts to make them work. Would be nice to have other alternatives to the traditional way. Thinking non-timber products, local logs for local usage, etc. Exploring the success in this.
- Dave Bugni – Do a combined presentation for someone from the west side and east side to understand the differences in management.
- Margaret Miller – At the American Forest Foundation there was a lot of talk about different carbon markets, but I do believe that especially here in Oregon with the additionality requirements, anything that would fall within a required retention by rule, which doesn't allow it as harvest for market, it restricts those areas from being included in them. They do become cost prohibitive. It would be interesting to look at something that people

may still be interested in, especially if that is their management perspective. Looking at other non-timber forest products could be interesting. Not sure how valuable they are as they didn't get into the revenue of it all, but interesting to hear about.

- Gary Jensen – I'd like to address an issue that is probably challenging. I have had several people come to me about the Private Forest Accord, and the challenges it presents. Is there some type of input on what defines a taking of individual rights? And does it apply when we come under new forest regulations or restrictions on access to our land. I know this is a legal issue not a natural resource issue, but it is one that has discussion going into it because of restrictions imposed on private properties as well as commercial properties.
  - Kaola Swanson – Do you think this is more of an education issue or are some people really searching for legal pathways?
  - Wendy Gerlach – We will take this as a topic and look into it further.

#### **Roundtable.**

- Wendy Gerlach – Do we want to as a group review the draft of the Vision for Oregon document and share some comments on it and set a date to discuss.
  - Heather or Miriam will send out these documents to the group.
- Maurizio Valerio – We need to update the illustrated manual from OFRI.
  - Margaret Miller – This is being worked on. Hoping to have an electronic version done by April.
    - Links of diagrams: <https://oregonforests.org/publication-library/westside-forest-stream-protection-diagrams>
    - <https://oregonforests.org/publication-library/eastside-forest-stream-protection-diagrams>
- Kate McMichael – Sending link to a lower level of how the seed orchard works: [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ofri\\_oregon-forest-landowners-plant-approximately-activity-7174147852451860480-2phJ](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ofri_oregon-forest-landowners-plant-approximately-activity-7174147852451860480-2phJ)
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – Talking about workforce needs we were able to pass a comprehensive workforce study. Will share links with Heather and Miriam On page 28, sections 40-42 are the Forestry Workforce Study.
- Tim Hoffman (in chat) - Reforestation in Oregon topic has the seed orchard video on OFRI YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@oregonforests>
- Chair Gerlach adjourns the meeting.