



Committee for Family Forestlands Meeting Summary for June 26th, 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 June 26th, 2024, as a hybrid online meeting. Meeting recordings constitute the official record.

CFE 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)
Eric Kranzush, Industry rep (Voting) Hampton Family Forests
Julie Woodward, OFRI Ex-Officio

ODF Staff attending:

Heather Hendersen, Budget Analyst
Mike Kroon, Deputy Chief – All Lands
Miriam Millier, Administrative Specialist
Josh Hanson, SFISH Coordinator
Arden Guinn, Forest Roads Inventory and Assessment Coordinator
Katie Blauvelt, Family Forestland Coordinator

Members not in attendance:

Maurizio Valerio, EO Landowner Rep. (Voting)

Guests/Public:

Theresa Hausser
A.C. Bell
Amanda Gilbert, CFWWC
Jessica Westcott
Ben Deumling, Board of Forestry Member
Genell Grow

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 Kroon provides an update on the Forest Resource Division.
- Julie Woodward – Question on the registry for Small Forestland Owners, do they have to select the box certifying they are one every time or is it a one and done?
 - Per the rules, it is required they certify every time.
- Dave Bugni – Planning a tour to the Seed Orchard on August 21st. If people are interested, it’s a great opportunity. If you want to learn more reach out to Glenn Ahren’s office.

SFISH Tax Guidance.

- Josh Hanson provides an update on the SFISH program and discusses the SFISH tax guidance.
- Wendy Gerlach – I have a question about the kinds of individuals receiving these, what percentage of those requesting this are taxable entities?

- All are individuals, partnerships, or family corporations that are taxable entities.
- Eric Kranzush – This would be helpful to add to our annual report.
- Dave Bugni – ODFW has a similar program that is much larger than the SFISH program. In order to do this, you need to go through a “gate keeper” but that would potentially elevate some of the tax concerns.
- Wendy Gerlach – I believe that it would be important for the program to be able to provide answers vs. expecting the landowner to figure it out. It would be helpful to have legal advice to Oregon Department of Forestry on this.
- Kate McMichael – Clint Bentz might be a good contact for some of these questions and potential impacts.
- Eric Kranzush – From my perspective an ultimate solution is if a small forestland owner is going to do a stream enhancement plan, which is a benefit to all Oregonians, that that income should be exempt from their income. But that would take a Legislative fix, but this could be something we could advocate for.
 - Josh Hanson – I do know those efforts have been tried in the past, I will do more research to see how that went in the past.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – AOL would be willing to help with that work, if the effort does go through the legislature or other means.
- Dave Bugni – I’d like to know the difference between this program and others that I have written grants on in the past.
 - Josh Hanson – Likely what happened is they were issued the tax document from ODF, I would have to investigate that, but typically that is what happens.
- Gary Jensen – If the landowner goes to the district, the district gets the funding and does the project and the landowner is free and clear, so what about something like that?
 - Josh Hanson – For this particular grant it specifically states it must go directly to the landowner.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – For those that have worked with others on grants what is the typical overhead?
 - Josh Hanson – Typically a little bit less, but it may depend on the services provided.
- Eric Kranzush – I don’t think we need to identify the solution we need to identify the problem, and if we are able to do this in the annual report and take that to the next level, it allows the Board to possibly go back to the Department on it.
 - Mike Kroon – If it is brought to the Board and they tell the department to start looking into it then the Department can pull together resources to do a deeper dive into this.
- Wendy Gerlach – If the department needs to know an answer to this, what resource do you have to finding it?
 - Josh Hanson – Will need to dig a little further into our options.
- Rick Zenn – I think it is great we are having this discussion, and I think it’s great to have Clint’s input, before we jump into seeing this as a legislative issue, we may want to look at the education piece. Would like to see what fix is needed, if any. If legislative fix is needed, this needs to be approached very carefully.

Stream Crossing Presentation.

- Dave Bugni provides PowerPoint presentation of Stream Crossing Fundamentals.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – When bridges like this are constructed do you have to go through any permit requirements with weight limits? Is there any public entity that must come out and verify the weight load and limit?
- Heather Hendersen will send out a copy of the presentation to the group.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – With the active channel width, I’m really hearing that will be what drives the size of the culvert vs. the 100-year flow. What is your perspective on the sourcing of some of these larger culverts and required materials?
 - Dave Bugni - There is a company called Contech. The culvert size now isn’t really a constraint, what is a constraint is time frame. When looking at the projects, you must plan ahead.

- Will send a video to go along with this. Heather Hendersen will send it out.
 - [Culvert Installation Video](#)
 - [Sutter Creek Bridge Installation Video](#)
- Wendy Gerlach – For clarification on the grants, the money comes up first, correct? And what are the timelines, if any, as well as the support that the project will provide?
 - Josh Hanson – Yes, money is up front in a sense, but it is incremental. In terms of timelines, sure we will put an end date on these grants, I haven't chewed on that as much as I need to but I'm assuming these will be about a 2-year timeline. The good news is that once the money is approved by the legislature, we get that money in its own account that is not part of the biennial cycle. In terms of support, the primary mechanism to do that is to use the SFISH funds to hire a project manager. Will the program provide support? Yes, we can assist in directing in some aspect but don't have the capacity to do project management.

OFRI Guide Overview.

- Julie Woodward provides overview of [Oregon's Forest Protection Laws: An Illustrated Manual 2024](#).
- Rick Zenn – I'd like to hear about how extension and ODF plan to start using this/getting it out to folks.
- Rick Zenn – It would be great if we could have a road show with this as the topic. Something that we schedule and send to folks.

Board of Forestry Update.

- Ben Deumling provides update on the Board of Forestry and the Vision for Oregon's Forests document.
- Wendy Gerlach – Do you have a sense of when you will start honing in on the second half of the document?
 - Ben Deumling – The second half of the document likely will be led more by the department vs the board as it is more operational vs just the overall vision.
 - Amanda Sullivan Astor – My understanding is at the next Board meeting they will vote on the draft and finalize the goals and vision.
- Julie Woodward – I think there are a lot of landowners follow the hazard map, seemed like a lot of landowners don't understand that the insurance companies have access to these maps outside of this map, so I think there needs to be better communication around this to help convey. I also haven't seen any plan on who is going to take the lead on this, so over all my question is, is there a communication plan and what are the efforts around that?
- Kate McMichael – It's important to really nail into the repetition of informing people as there will always be people that haven't heard what has occurred.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – The one big question I've been getting is if there is an appeals process and if they can appeal the new area that they land, if they feel like they have been miscategorized.
 - Kate McMichael – Is there a possibility of the Department working with OFRI?
 - Julie Woodward – An important part of the conversation is this is landscape, not particular property. So, there is a balance between telling them to do this work and mitigation, but it won't get them off the map because it's on the landscape level, so really the challenge is getting them to understand that.
- Ben Deumling – Would like to get an idea of experiences with prescribed fires. As there is more to learn about using it as a tool for landowners.
- Wendy Gerlach – Land trusts use prescribed fire. There is an Oak forest project, East Cascades Oak Partnership, where they have utilized prescribed fires.
- Dave Bugni – I think prescribed fire has a place, but people look at it on a statewide level, and in some areas it's a no brainer. However, in other areas I think it needs to be studied more to see what actually is best.

- Amanda Sullivan-Astor provides how members of AOL use it.
- Mike Kroon provides how ODF uses it.
- Julie Woodward provides how OFRI uses it.
- Glenn Ahrens – Down the road there will be more educational and training opportunities and how prescribed fire could work for landowners. It is still going to be a real challenge for us here in NW Oregon, in the fragmented landscape we are in.
- Kate McMichael – Another OSU name as a potential resource would be Mark Swanson, as part of his interview he spoke a lot about his experiences working with Small Forestland Owners.
- Rick Zenn – At the last meeting, the post disturbance harvest was pulled off the agenda, wanted to know if you had any information on what the timeline is and when it will be added again? And if there is information on why it was pulled?
 - Ben Deumling – The hope is it will come back in September. Instead of being on the consent it will be an actual agenda item. The impression I got was that it became apparent there needed to be more conversation around the topic. It's one I'm struggling with because the proposed rule doesn't live up to the science and there is some tension there.

CFF Annual Report.

- Wendy Gerlach – Talk about things we have contributed to, like the Vision and making sure the Accord appropriately represents Small Forestland Owners.
- Mike Kroon – Put in for 45 minutes for the presentation, requested this last year and it was shortened to 30 minutes just as a heads up.
- Kate McMichael – We've done a lot of listening on the SFISH stuff, raising the tax implications. However, we do it, knowing that will be on the mind of at least some landowners. Make sure they know we want to stay engaged on the next steps for the Vision. Something about the process on the post disturbance as it relates to small landowners.
- Gary Jensen – That's one big issue with a lot of the SFO's is the taking and losing portions of their property, and if they have an issue then they find all the regulations and restrictions around that. A lot of the small landowners have purchased properties that prior to their purchase were logged or cleared. So they brought properties that they get caught with the reality of what that looks like.
- Kate McMichael – There is a lot of trust that needs to be rebuilt, because it feels like people nod their heads and appear to be listening, but then no one really did.
- Maurizio Valerio (sent in via email) – Focus on contributions of small forestland owners.
- Gary Jensen – We hear talk about this, and it is a topic of discussion, so it's not ignored and it's an ongoing process that the future holds the answer.
- David Bugni – Point out the value that the Small Forestland Owners provide at no cost to the public so they can better understand the value we provide to them.
- Theresa Hausser – Forest Facts, I think we could mine that for some statistics. On top of that Small Forestland Owners are hosting classes on their properties. There is a lot of opportunity for the public to sign up for a tour and learn something about an actual woodland. Being part of the educational process, but also the openness to being welcoming to people coming to see what's going on.
- Dave Bugni – If we can help get the word out when we have these big tours that would be amazing.
- Kate McMichael – Maybe this is thinking about our workplan going forward, maybe a way to provide those clear opportunities to have landowners come be on the ground with small woodland owners to get education out there.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – On the where do we go from here could be an invitation to the Department and the Board to see some small woodland properties and do some tours.

- Gary Jensen – The challenge I see is that we have a certain clientele that will come to those tours, but you are talking about a much broader group to try and get them to come out and see. Not sure how we would accomplish it to get the recognition and publicity needed to do that. Would require someone take the lead on this.
- Theresa Hausser – A simplistic response to that would be that industries sometimes appreciate when the “Small guys” speak up. I could see an entity inviting industries partners to fund something and then work with the small landowners to put together something like this.
- David Bugni – On a small scale we have had tours of non-timber entities want to come out to see our properties. Secondly, OFRI has done a great job doing some of these small blips on TV where they feature a small logging operation. Maybe do something like that and have segments on small woodland owners that are more relatable to the public more than they would with a corporation.
- Julie Woodward – In this case are we asking the Board to engage more in helping to support landowners. Or are we talking about how the Committee for Family Forestlands is making an impact on people managing their land. We need to think about what it is we can ask the Board of Forestry to think about. I think the power this committee has is you have people who are committed and connected to the land that you can convey to the Board.
- Rick Zenn – The vision document is going to be coming up and there isn’t much in there about Small Forestland Owners, so getting across the message that SFOs are a large part of the forest base of Oregon. Need to keep hitting on that big picture stuff. The other part is we are part of communities. If you want to touch communities, touch Small Forestland Owners. The other part is hitting hard on the diversity in lands, owners, and goals. The other thing is that the key to Small Forestland Owners is education and cooperation. Hitting on the fact we are connected; we are constantly working through partnerships.
- Wendy Gerlach – Focusing on success stories that overlap with the Board goals.
- Eric Kranzush – Look at the pillars that are in the Vision and how Small Forestland Owners are contributing to that as well as challenges that they may be facing but are still navigating.
- Suggested speakers to present – Dave Bugni, Kate McMichael, Maurizio Valerio, Glenn Ahrens, and Gary Jensen.
- Glenn Ahrens – Happy to speak if needed but really believe that the priority is the landowners who are on the ground and presenting what they are seeing.
- Wendy Gerlach – One thing we had last year was the PFA, including the creation of the SFO office. Incentive programs including SFISH and disproportionate impact. Other thoughts that connected to the accord that we may want to add?
- David Bugni – One suggestion would be to collect some data from stewardship foresters on how the road assessments are going, are their improvements we would like to see? Is there a way to address any issues with that?
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – I’m curious to see if there are any watersheds that have met that 5% cap?
- Julie Woodward – Might not be bringing in that data but asking are we gathering that data? Is this something that they can be bringing in that data to this body as a goal for us. Continue to seek that relationship with the Small Forestland Owner office.
- Kate McMichael – Since they will have the written report really hit in on specific items to make them read the report.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – Request or suggest a Board tour on small landowner property so they can really see what it looks like.
- Wendy Gerlach – When speaking about prescribed fire, when thinking about things that are improvements or success stories, like talking about pile burning has that process been made easier?
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – For a future topic, not for the report, having Amanda Roe come speak about the certified burn manager program could be great.
- Wendy Gerlach – Anything on technical guidance we would want to add? Is there anything coming in the future year that we would be putting into our work plan?

- Kaola Swanson mentioned in a note to Wendy Gerlach aiding in transfer from generation to generation.
- Julie Woodward – This used to be a big piece, there was a program to help with that. I believe at this time OSU extension doesn't have someone just focused on that program.
- Glenn Ahrens – We will be trying to revive that and redesign. Going to invite Tammy Cushing to come back.
- Glenn Ahrens – Something for maybe next year, we have all been working on the post fire recovery and reforestation challenges. We have a study I am doing, called "The Landowner Experience After Fire". We already know a lot of the things that are going to come up, but we will be working on that over the next year. There will be some big outcomes and priorities items for us moving forward that will come out of this. A big part of the story is how can we do better next time? This would be a big thing for us next year.
- Mike Kroon – On the SFISH piece for the taxes might want to add in the metrics that Josh Hanson provided. Maybe tie in fixing the tax issue.
- Eric Kranzush – Advocate to the Board that there was picking and choosing between projects, so keeping funding at the current level at minimum but also advocate for additional funding.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – I'd add the small forestland owner grant from 762, it right now doesn't look like it will receive additional funding.
- David Bugni – Just follow up, I was heavily involved in that. I'd hate to see a program like that evaporate. Make sure that the success stories are somehow included.
- A draft of the annual report will be sent to Heather Hendersen, this will then be sent out for review by the committee and a vote will be taken.

Roundtable.

- Julie Woodward – Every couple years, we often partner with the department to put in funding through the state and federal grants where we bring in funding for an educational purpose for small landowners. There is a new person, Katie Blauvelt, in that position and I think it would be great to have them come and engage with this group as a future topic to look at future projects.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – Margaret Miller and I did a presentation at the Yamhill OSWA about biomass opportunities, that might be interesting for us to explore moving forward.
- Kate McMichael – One of the things I'm excited about with being on the Oregon Tree Farm Board, one of our working groups is one of our little gaps is people who own less than 10 acres but are really involved in taking care of their land, even when they don't qualify for the official certification. We are exploring a self-certification program for them.
- Mike Kroon – Could have the Urban Community Forestry members come talk as a future agenda item.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – One other connection is the Governors Environmental Justice Council is developing an environmental justice mapping tool for the state. Maybe have Evan Elderbrock come in to speak on what the Urban Community Forest Unit is doing to assist in this.
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor – Two years ago I did a piece on workforce, and OFRI is assisting in developing a comprehensive workforce study. We should have a report sometime the middle of next year.
- Chair Gerlach closes the meeting.