



Committee for Family Forestlands Meeting Summary for September 12, 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 September 12, 2024, as a hybrid 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
David Bugni, NW Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Maurizio Valencio, EO Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Kaola Swanson, Conservation Rep. (Voting)

ODF Staff attending:

Heather Hendersen, Administrative Specialist
Mike Kroon, Deputy Chief – All Lands
Miriam Miller, Administrative Specialist
Tim Holschbach, Deputy Chief – Policy & Planning

Members not in attendance:

Glenn Ahrens, OSU College of Forestry Ext. Ex-Officio
Amanda Sullivan-Astor, Forest Policy Manager AOL Ex-Officio
Julie Woodward, OFRI (Ex-Officio)

Guests/Public:

Josie Altman
Sharon Waterman
Terry Orton
Laura Wilkeson, Hampton Lumber
Jonathan Clark
Jessica Westcott
Kris Babbs, KOG President

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.
- Rick Zenn – There was a question yesterday about reforestation rules, did that go to you Mike? Will follow up with Mike after.

Discuss Vacant Industry Rep. Position.

- Wendy asks for ideas/suggestions.
- Dave Bugni has an idea of someone in Molalla that he will reach out to.
- Wendy Gerlach will reach out to Eric to see if he has any ideas.
- Timeline for this is as soon as possible, willing to have them join mid-term if someone is found/interested.
- Kate McMichael will be reaching out to some people at SPI if they have some suggestions.
- Maurizio Valerio – Just went and visited a mill in Wallowa County, will reach out to David Schmidt to see if they are interested.

SFISH One Pager Discuss.

- Mike provides information on SFISH and the tax piece/one pager.
- Heather Hendersen will send out a copy to the group.
- Wendy Gerlach – Seems concerning to raise the alarm if there will not be an issue, need to investigate this more to see if we really should be focusing on this.
- Dave Bugni – I've done similar programs and never had a tax issue.
- Kate McMichael – Totally understand not raising the alarm, but maybe just the advisement to speak with their tax advisor just to ensure they know what to expect.

Discuss upcoming Meeting Schedule and Agenda Topics.

- Wendy Gerlach asks for topics/discussions for upcoming year.
- Maurizio Valerio – Would like to hear more about value added forestry. Any examples of how our forest can continue to provide jobs, and products for our communities that are not the typical large-scale mills.
- Kaola Swanson – Focus on the loss of small forestland owner land. Seems like there is a rapid decline of small forestland owner lands, not sure the reasoning but acknowledging that loss and thinking about ways to maintain it would be great.
- Gary Jensen – Would like to see Post Disturbance discussion. To include how that expense can be covered to assist the small landowners.
- Rick Zenn – Would like to hear how the SFO and ODF is coordinating with OFRI, the extension, and the partnership through forestry education to communicate not only to active folks in the program but to the larger audience. Folks are looking to SFO and ODF for a little more leadership on this. This committee could certainly push on this.
- Dave Bugni – Updates on the development on the Post Disturbance Harvest Rules pertaining to SFOs.
- Kate McMichael – There have been some concerning statistics about how many SFOs are or are not complying with reforestation rules. I automatically have questions of what is behind all of that as to the “why” is this the case, is it lack of awareness? Is it just flat out ignoring the rules? Etc.
- Gary Jensen – There is more discussion coming up on urban growth boundaries, curious with the expansion of this will it have an effect on forest structures and lands in those regions or zones. Does it take it out of having to comply with the Private Forest Accord? Are there issues when you convert that land to be residential?
- Maurizio Valerio – The infrastructure of our stewardship forests, have seen the closure of several small mills in the last year. If the infrastructure for stewardship does not exist, the techniques and incentive to be a small owner becomes a challenge.
- Rick Zenn – One thing OFRI has been talking about is what are we all doing to reach the “unengaged” folks that own land, neighbors, relatives, but may not be connected with their SFO or service forester. What is the strategy? Using electronic communication and social media is part of that.

Protection Division Update.

- Tim Holschbach provides a PowerPoint presentation on the 2024 fire season.
 - Heather Hendersen will send out a copy of the presentation.
- Mike Kroon – Do you anticipate us going out to other states from now to the end of the year to help with their fires?
 - Tim Holschbach – Would expect there to be a period of reprieve for us based on this fire season.
- Mike Kroon – You mentioned FEMA eligible fires, can you please explain what that means?
 - Tim Holschbach provides an overview of FEMA.

- Maurizio Valerio – Do we have data on volunteer participation? How do volunteers participate in this? Do we have data on fire burning on land that was previously burned a few years before?
 - Tim Holschbach – ODF doesn't use volunteers, but the fire marshal may have information on this. The return interval is what you are referring to, it's more looking in the past than projecting the future. We can look within a perimeter, but we can't project that, especially as there is a human component.
- Mike Kroon – He may have been asking about volunteers around camp too.
 - Tim Holschbach – The fire marshal may have some data on that. I do know the rangeland fire protection associations do track fire suppression hours and those are reported to the Board of Forestry every June.
- Maurizio Valerio - Do we have data/statistics on land for future fire risk, basically how it may return to a section of land after it's already burned.
 - Tim Holschbach – The return interval is more looking in the past than projecting the future, we can look at fire perimeters. Due to the human component, it throws a wild card into when and where fires will start.
- Wendy Gerlach – From Maurizio's last question, is land more likely to reburn if it's been burned once or not? What is the difference between a gross cost and a net cost? Having the data that shows the causation and the cost to show people to see how they are impacted would be amazing.
 - Tim Holschbach – Some of these areas, if they burn a second time there is less fuel so the intensity of the fire may change but the chance of fire doesn't. Gross is the money ODF has to pay from the start, when ODF is the paying agent. Net cost is the portions we go to legislature and ask for.

Protection Messaging and Prevention.

- Kristin Babbs provides PowerPoint presentation on Protection Messaging and Prevention.
- Element Fire – ([Element - Fire Extinguishers – Element Fire Extinguishers](#)) has fire extinguishers that don't expire.
- Watch Duty is an app that can monitor fire activity.
- Dave Bugni – Would it be possible to share, and do we have permission to share with our local community?
 - Heather Hendersen will send copies to the group.
- Maurizio Valerio – Do you have an email or website for the debris burning application that is being developed?
 - Kristin Babbs - Can't share at the moment as it is being pilot tested at this time. Believe that the goal is to go statewide by 2025.
- Wendy Gerlach – What is your relationship with ODF? How do you work with ODF and how do you use data from ODF? In terms of human caused fires and misc., does misc. include encampment fires? What are thoughts, as you mentioned with people living in cars/forested areas due to lack of home in terms of prevention?
 - Kristin Babbs - We have been linked from the very beginning. We have a contractual relationship to combat fires on their behalf. For a time we were not tracking the unhoused, but we are now. When looking at the data, we see all the different users that we are tracking and the number state wide isn't huge for the unhoused caused fires but when you speak locally it is. It's a deeper dive, for us to look into this. We are currently working with some areas, and we provide resources to help prevent fires.

BOF Update.

- Wendy Gerlach – I believe that the Board finalized the Vision document, so this could lead into our topics as I believe the next steps are taking over by ODF, so keeping an eye on this over the next year would be important.
- Mike Kroon provides a few notes from the Board of Forestry meeting.
- Gary Jensen – Habitat Conservation Plan has quite a challenge from the NW School districts who are losing money due to the lack of harvest, they talked about one of the districts is suing ODF. I was amazed at the school

districts and counties that came and spoke about the issues with the Habitat Conservation Plan. It will be interesting to see the follow up on this.

Discuss upcoming Meeting Schedule and Agenda Topics (continued).

- Review Wendy Gerlach’s bullet points to ensure we have captured what people have asked for.
 - Discussion of timber markets and SFO infrastructure needs: what is meant by that, what specifically would be helpful, ideas CFF members have for addressing issues. What is causing mill closings, and what other markets are there for SFOs to tap into. Amanda suggested Gordon Culbertson might be a presenter for this topic.
 - We could also ask for a meeting with Katie Blauvelt of the SFO Office and discuss ways the office and CFF could work together. Katie could also report on grant programs, success, impact, funding, etc. Partnerships and effective collaboration—ODF leadership and how to develop via SFO Office.
 - Another topic could be programs for fuels reduction: what state and federal programs are working, and what is needed; barriers to using existing resources/programs.
 - An update on the SFISH grant program tax issue (avoiding having grants be capital income)—it was said earlier that Cliff Bentz was doing a one-pager on this. Discussion of that would be useful (this might be something Mike can update on).
 - Amanda also suggested a briefing on new stream classifications and perennality, which would be very useful (if someone’s available now, great, if not, a good future topic).
 - Amanda also mentioned a workforce study being done. For a future meeting, it would be good to learn about the findings.
 - For the meeting after this, I suggest we set up an update from the Climate Action on Natural and Working Lands, and what that looks like. Dave Bugni has asked for a presentation on carbon sequestration potential and markets for credits for SFO properties.
 - Loss of SFO lands: why, where going, how to push back against this trend (succession, viable markets, assist with regulation/compliance). Kaola.
 - Post-fire SFO management obligations and compliance under Forest Practices Act. Systems to assist with reforestation, how to cover expenses, link to SFO office. Communications and outreach aspect. Post-disturbance harvest rules. Gary.
 - Urban Growth Boundaries and land use rules: how relate to forest management, conversion, etc. Gary.
 - How to reach as yet unengaged SFOs. Rick.
 - New value-added forest products and revenue streams. Example of Wallowa Heartland Biomass. Maurizio.
- Rick Zenn – A checklist of who the players are and that we are regularly checking in. It’s not productive to get information from another organization when it’s too late. Part of that is to coordinate what SFOs input. If there was something that had what are all the groups doing in the next year and where we can help. This would value add the work the committee does.
 - Wendy Gerlach – Could ODF help put something together for this?
 - Mike Kroon – I think it is an option, just need to think of the players who would be involved in creating this.
- Maurizio Valerio - Would like to invite Neal Christopherson (?) to come present.
 - In chat – Stewardship Economy (by Wallowa Resources)
<https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2024/06/14/nils-christoffersen-uplifting-rural-communities-through-stewardship-economy>
- Kaola Swanson (in chat) – Should we invite Sustainable Northwest Wood who also does that work? These folks sound like a fantastic panel.

- Maurizio Valerio – I think that the 9 tribes in Oregon could be another great resource to bring in and talk.
- Kaola Swanson - Is there a way ODF could post a workshop for small forestland owners or something along those lines to organize this conversation? We may have a larger audience for these discussions.
- Mike Kroon – Possibly have the Urban Community Forestry Program come talk about the difference between urban and rural forestry.
- Dave Bugni – I put together a presentation that gave a 360-degree view of the Clackamas, everything from geology, forestry, climate science, economics, etc. Something like this may help provide a resource for people to watch on their own time.

Roundtable.

- Maurizio Valerio – The big 2020 fires really engaged our different foundations led by my foundation in organizing something that has taken shape and is operational now. It is called the Oregon Disaster Funders Forum. Information regarding this can be found on the website.
 - Oregon Disaster Funders Forum <https://www.oregondisasterfundersnetwork.org/> Disaster Response, Recovery, and Resilience.
 - The AgriStress Helpline® <https://www.agrisafe.org/agristress-helpline/> call or text 833-897-2474
- Dave Bugni –
 - I’m on the committee for the tree farms to create a unified management plan to make it simpler for folks who want to be certified tree farms.
 - Our local CCFFA group when and visited the Tree Orchard that is run by ODF, found it to be an outstanding tour and highly recommend doing it.
 - Just completed our largest log placement project on the Clackamas basin.
- Rick Zenn –
 - The Umpqua tree school is coming up, if you haven’t checked it out there is a larger tree school webpage where you can find out more information. We will be having the Annual Family Forest Convention June 19th, 20th, and 21st. This will be based in Corvallis, and I will be looking for ideas for the Friday program, I think having a session for this committee would be great.
 - I have a grant to help support community-based tours. The idea is to take family forestland owners, feature their property and invite others to come over and participate. Can help with lunches, port-a-potties, etc. to help put these on. Will be promoting starting the first part of October to help fire up the folks already involved and bring in some new faces.
- Gary Jensen – What I’m seeing is we have a lot on our agendas going forward, we have a lot of expectations to accomplish and now we have to do it.
- Chair Gerlach closes the meeting.