



## EO Regional Forest Practice Committee Meeting Minutes for October 9, 2025

### I. Roll Call

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Not Present
Bob Messinger, Chair Tim Rude Todd Kurtz Jeremy Grose		Travis Erickson Bobby Douglas
ODF Staff		Guests/Public
Kyle Abraham Scott Swearingen Kate Thompson Camille Collett Tim Cudmore Marc DesJardin Austin Reimer Kody Johannsen Mellony Hoskinson Tim Moss Brandon Ferguson	Greg Wagenblast Brandon Voss Laura York Adam Coble Jim Gersbach Thomas Whittington Arden Guinn Jennifer Weikel Nicole Stapp Emily Gregorio	None

### II. Chair Comments

- Chair Messinger called the meeting to order at 12:38pm.
- A quorum was not established; Chair Messinger moved to proceed with non-decision items until a quorum could be reached for Operator of the Year Decision.
- No public comment noted.
- No chair updates noted.

### III. Division and Area Update – Kyle Abraham and Marc DesJardin

- Kyle Abraham provided a division update. The following was noted:
  - Reviewed division and agency organizational charts, highlighting Interim State Forester and Interim Deputy State Forester positions.
  - Provided a legislative update:
    - The State Forester hiring process has changed from the Board of Forestry to the Governor. Open recruitment is currently underway, and Kate Skinner will remain in the position through the end of this year.
    - The agency bills include funding for the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), the Small Forestland Investment in Stream Habitat (SFISH) program, Adaptive

*Pursuant to public notice made by news release with statewide distribution, a committee meeting of the Eastern Oregon Regional Forest Practice Committee [an advisory body to the Oregon Board of Forestry with authority established in Oregon Revised Statute 527.650] was held virtually on October 9, 2025, hosted by the ODF Forest Resources Division*

- Management Program (AMP), and Independent Research and Science Team (IRST). Funding included participation grant money, money for research projects, and continued funding for HCP support.
  - The wildfire hazard map was repealed.
  - HB 3940 provides resources for landscape resiliency and flexibility for fire funding.
- The Governor issued guidance for saving general funds during this biennium as an adjustment to meet state revenue compared to anticipated projections when the budget was set.
- Discussed the federal shutdown:
  - Several programs are federally funded, some programs have stopped as a result, and some staff are impacted.
  - There is an anticipated delay in grant payments and reimbursements when the government reopens that the agency is tracking closely.
- Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) is doing demonstrations with air curtain incinerator in Central Oregon.
  - Emily Gregorio to send committee members the information.
- Marc DesJardin provided a fire season update. The following was noted:
  - 2025 was a busy but not historic fire season; there were more fires than in 2024, but they came with moisture which allowed for good initial attack and to keep them small.
  - A few fires in John Day required incident management teams.
  - HB 3940 – in John Day, zone 1 is resolved and they are being moved into grazing acres. The process to reclassify Grant County to adjust has begun.
  - There was a large fire funding change: the agency is able to access loans and administrative costs no longer go down to the district level but will instead be budgeted with general funds. Local landowners will only be paying for initial attack response within their local district boundaries.
  - Eastside rate relief has been made permanent to reduce grazing rates for landowners.

IV. Chair Messinger adjusted the agenda to present the non-decision item before Operator of the Year as a quorum was still not reached.

#### V. Forest Practices Technical Guidance (FPTG) Update – Scott Swearingen

- Scott Swearingen reviewed the schedule of Forest Practice Technical Guidance updates.
- Channel Migration Zone (CMZ) guidance is in process. Camille Collette provided the following additional details:
  - The Private Forest Accord directed ODF to create guidance on how to identify and delineate CMZ and said it should be consistent with Washington Department of Natural Resources.
  - The first step is an office review of LiDAR, air photos, and maps, and then there is a field check. If there is a CMZ, the guidance goes through how to delineate the boundaries and components.
  - The first draft is expected in early 2026.

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- Emily Gregorio to send the schedule of in progress and upcoming Technical Guidance with the committee.

VI. Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Status – Kate Thompson and Jennifer Weikel

- Jennifer Weikel reviewed a presentation.

VII. Forest Practices Rulemaking: Post-Disturbance Rules, Tethered Logging – Nicole Stapp

- Nicole Stapp reviewed a presentation. The following was noted:
  - ODF and ODFW decided that the original model for stream flow was insufficient for the purposes of identifying perennial and non-perennial streams, so other options are currently under review. By early 2026, the agency will have an idea of how the models are performing.

VIII. Forest Resources Division Training Team Summary – Tim Cudmore

- Tim Cudmore reviewed a presentation.

IX. Forest Practices Compliance Monitoring Program Update – Adam Coble

- Adam Coble reviewed a presentation.

X. Operator of the Year Decision – Greg Wagenblast

- This agenda item was not covered as a quorum was not reached. A new meeting to cover this topic will be scheduled.

XI. Chair Messinger adjourned the meeting at 2:40pm.