



## SW Regional Forest Practice Committee

### Meeting Minutes for October 23, 2025

#### I. Roll Call

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Not Present
Dana Kjos Hunter Kjos Steve Swanson		N/A
ODF Staff		Guests/Public
Kyle Abraham Scott Swearingen Camille Collett Greg Wagenblast Laura York Adam Coble Jim Gersbach	Thomas Whittington Jennifer Weikel Nicole Stapp Emily Gregorio Jennifer Ward Marcus Havinear Dave Larson	Meghan Tuttle Robin Crepeau Seth Barnes Michael Williams

#### II. Chair Comments

- Chair Kjos called the meeting to order at 9:00am.
- A quorum was established.
- Chair Kjos announced his resignation.
- No public comments noted.

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

- Nicole Stapp reviewed a presentation. The following was noted:
  - Different options for the perenniability model are under review with the goal of early spring 2026 to have something available for public view. Chair Kjos expressed concern for industry professionals doing surveys themselves still.

#### IV. Division and Field Updates – Kyle Abraham and Dave Larson

- Kyle Abraham provided a division update. The following was noted:
  - Reviewed division and agency organizational charts noting Interim Deputy State Forester and Interim State Forester positions.
  - State Forester recruitment is open. Interviews are anticipated in November with top candidates meeting with the Governor in December, and a new State Forester confirmed during the short session in February.
  - Provided a legislative update:
    - The State Forester hiring process has changed from the Board of Forestry to the Governor with Senate confirmation.

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- The agency bills include funding for the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), the Small Forestland Investment in Stream Habitat (SFISH) program, Adaptive Management Program (AMP), and Independent Research and Science Team (IRST).
- The wildfire hazard map was repealed.
- HB 3940 provided resources for landscape resiliency and flexibility for fire funding.
- o Discussed the federal shutdown:
  - Several programs that are federally funded are being impacted with some work stopped.
  - There is an anticipated delay in grant payments and reimbursements when the government reopens that the agency is tracking closely.
- o The revenue allocated at the end of last session is not predicted to be enough for this biennium, so cost containment strategies are underway. There are some reductions identified and under review with the Governor, but no positions impacted.
- Dave Larson provided an area update. The following was noted:
  - o Area-wide group training has been underway.
  - o Standards for more time in the field and more inspections have been implemented.
  - o There are some vacancies and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) funding difficulties.
  - o Some fire costs have moved from the area to general fund as a result of legislative changes, and the area is proactively looking at ways to contain costs.
  - o Fire season update:
    - Season was about average with a little over 24,000 acres of ODF protected land burned. The net large fire cost is approximately 18.3M in Southern Oregon Area.
    - Chair Kjos expressed appreciation for the area's severity work.
    - Steve Swanson noted an improvement in the relationship with ODF, USFS, and the industry.

## V. Operator of the Year Decision – Greg Wagenblast

- Greg Wagenblast reviewed the Operator of the Year nomination criteria and process, noting that one nominee this year was sent to the Climate Smart Award, and the workgroup to update the policy will commence shortly.
- The committee reviewed nomination videos and discussed the nominees.
- Voting for Operator of the Year was as follows:
  - o Chair Kjos – Weber Logging and Construction, Inc.
  - o Kale Woosley – Dave Wilkerson Logging LLC
  - o Steve Swanson – Dave Wilkerson Logging LLC
  - o Michael Scott – Weber Logging and Construction, Inc.
  - o Hunter Kjos – Weber Logging and Construction, Inc.
  - o Chris Arnold – Weber Logging and Construction, Inc.
- Based on these results, Chair Kjos motioned to vote to award Weber Logging and Construction, Inc. Operator of the Year and award Dave Wilkerson Logging LLC a merit award. Voting was unanimous with the following committee members casting a “yes” vote: Chair Kjos, Kale Woosley, Steve Swanson, Michael Scott, Hunter Kjos, Chris Arnold.

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## VI. 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 (DNR).
  - First draft expected early 2026.
  - For widespread and meandering rivers, the guidance describes a “disconnected migration area” to account for cutoffs of a river from previous floodplain.
  - Forestland adjacent to the Willamette River will still need to be evaluated with the guidance and standard process.
  - CMZ for coastal areas where a stream may move side-to-side depends on how the surfaces are and if there is evidence that a channel occupied those surfaces in the past or may in the future.
- The 100-Year Peak Flow guidance and the abandoned roads project are both in process.

## VII. Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Status – Jennifer Weikel

- Jennifer Weikel reviewed a presentation.

## VIII. Forest Resources Division Training Team Summary – Jennifer Ward

- Jennifer Ward reviewed a presentation.

## IX. Forest Practices Compliance Monitoring Program Update – Adam Coble

- Adam Coble reviewed a presentation. The following was noted:
  - There were a total of 20 sites in the pilot study, 10 in Eastern Oregon and 10 in Western Oregon, with no strata for industrial versus nonindustrial.
  - Differences with responses from small forestland owners will be known at the end of the study.
  - Seth Barnes expressed appreciation in the push for inclusion and noted that Washington drops small forestland owners that do not respond and move on to the next one on the list.
  - In response to a question regarding if ODF will push for warrants for access: the preference is to work on improvements in the process rather than seeking warrants.
  - In response to a question regarding how Oregon’s process compares to other states: Washington’s approach is comparatively rigorous to Oregon, Idaho has less private forestland and operates differently, California is a mix of compliance and effectiveness monitoring with a focus on fire.
  - Landowners are notified before going out onto their land.
  - Compliance monitoring is part of the HCP and required with new rules.

## X. Chair Kjos discussed his resignation. Chris Arnold motioned for a vote to elect Steve Swanson as the new chair. Voting was unanimous with the following committee members casting a “yes” vote: Dana Kjos (resigning Chair), Chris Arnold, Hunter Kjos, Michael Scott, Kale Woosley. Steve Swanson abstained from voting.

## XI. Chair Kjos adjourned the meeting at 11:55am.

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