



NW Regional Forest Practice Committee

Meeting Minutes for October 30, 2025

I. Roll Call

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Not Present
Eric Kranzush Rob VanCurler Mike Barnes Randy Silbernagel		N/A
ODF Staff		Guests/Public
Kyle Abraham Nicole Stapp Scott Swearingen Kirk Ausland Don Everingham Kate Thompson Greg Wagenblast Tim Moss Kevin Nelson Taylor Johnson		Nancy Lanyon

II. Chair Comments

- Chair Barnes called the meeting to order at 12:12pm.
- A quorum was established.
- The agenda was adjusted to postpone the public comment period to account for the early meeting start.
- Chair Barnes welcomed Aaron Zweben and Rob Van Curler to the committee as new members.

III. Division and Area Update – Kyle Abraham and Don Everingham

- 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 with Senate confirmation. Open recruitment is currently underway, and Kate Skinner will remain in the position through the end of this year. The goal is to have the State Forester position to have Senate confirmation around February 2026.

Pursuant to public notice made by news release with statewide distribution, a committee meeting of the Northwest 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 in Forest Grove, OR on October 30, 2025, hosted by the ODF Forest Resources Division.

- 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 - The wildfire hazard map was repealed.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 provides 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, such as Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
 - The agency is unable to bill some funding sources or get agreements signed as a result, and delays are expected to continue after the government reopens.
- 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.
- o It is unclear if the Governor's executive order will impact the agency yet.

- Don Everingham provided an area update. The following was noted:
 - o There are two committee vacancies.
 - o Mike Barnes, Candace Bonner, and Tally Patton were recognized for their longstanding commitment to the committee.
 - o The Newport office is now open, and the design to replace the Lyons office that was lost in the 2020 fire season has been finalized with the goal of going to bid in January to break ground in 2026.
 - o There have been some staffing changes, and the Stewardship Foresters are a mix of new and experienced with both still learning the new rules.
 - o Reviewed fire season statistics to include 130M gross cost for the fire season, a net ODF cost of about 50M which continues to impact the budget.
 - o There has been a decrease in notifications.
 - o Forest Road Inventory Assessment (FRIA) first annual report is due between November and February as the first part of inventory process; the Stewardship Foresters are tracking this.
 - o The small forestland owner option summary is done annually based on FERNS data.

IV. 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 Barnes – Quality Excavation, Inc.
 - o Eric Kranzush – Quality Excavation, Inc.
 - o Rob Van Curler – Quality Excavation, Inc.
 - o Aaron Zweber – Quality Excavation, Inc.

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- Dave Wells – Quality Excavation, Inc.
- Randy Silbernagel – Quality Excavation, Inc.
- Candace Bonner – Quality Excavation, Inc.
- Randy Silbernagel presented a motion to award Quality Excavation, Inc. Operator of the Year, and award Emerald Valley Thinning, Inc. and RDL Northwest merit awards. Candace Bonner seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous with the following committee members casting a “yes” vote: Chair Barnes, Eric Kranzush, Rob Van Curler, Aaron Zweber, Dave Wells, Randy Silbernagel, Candace Bonner.
- The Operator of the Year for each region will be recognized by the Board of Forestry, and merit awards will be presented by the respective district.

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

- Scott Swearingen reviewed schedule of Forest Practice Technical Guidance updates.
 - Candace Bonner expressed concern for small forestland owners doing physical stream work, adding that the data is often different on paper than what is on the ground.
 - 100-Year Peak Flow guidance is still in process.
- 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
 - The LiDAR and aerial photos are already completed, the guide will have a link for access.
 - Chair Barnes noted that small forestland owners do not have personnel to support this work so they will rely on the State.
 - Data is publicly available and can be downloaded and viewed in GIS.
 - Camille Collette to send resources to Candace Bonner to help identify if a CMZ is present on her land.

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

- Nicole Stapp reviewed a presentation. The following was noted:
 - For public comments, what was and was not changed will be communicated. In prior rulemaking, a document was shared showing comment themes and a response section for why a change was or was not made.
 - The Board of Forestry chooses how to adopt the rules.
 - The agency is actively pursuing alternative models with more than one option to meet the deadline.

VII. Chair Barnes adjusted the agenda to include a 10-minute break.

VIII. Chair Barnes adjusted the agenda to open the meeting for public comment. No public comment was provided.

IX. Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Status – Jennifer Weikel/Kate Thompson

- Kate Thompson reviewed a presentation. The following was noted:
 - Nothing has changed from the federal services in the last month due to the shutdown. There may be delays after the government reopens, but impacts are expected to be minimal.
 - When the public draft is sent out it will be the entire HCP document. There will be an executive summary at the beginning of the document with key points in each chapter. There is a technical contractor who is experienced with other HCPs that will provide input on what to emphasize.

X. Forest Resources Division Training Team Summary – Jennifer Ward

- Jennifer Ward reviewed a presentation. The following was noted:
 - In response to a question regarding small forestland owner outreach: ODF is meeting with Oregon Small Woodlands Association regularly, working with Oregon Forest Resources Institute to develop a brochure for small forestland audience, and attending Neighbor to Neighbor tours and the Family Forestland Convention. The agency aims to stay connected and reach as many people as possible.
 - Chair Barnes expressed a lack of resources and experts for small forestland owners and emphasized the importance of support for them.

XI. Forest Practices Compliance Monitoring Program Update – Adam Coble

- Adam Coble reviewed a presentation. The following was noted:
 - ODF has access to land for studies and is letting landowners know they will be performing a study on their land. Non-response data will be reviewed for the full study to address any concerns.
 - There is a message about the possibility of a compliance study when a notification is submitted.
 - Private non-industrial small forestland owners are the majority of non-response data.
 - Agency staff review all available info about a site that is being studied and work with the Stewardship Forester.
 - There is no specific strategy right now to use the data to show the successes of the PFA for the general public, but ODF is looking at ways to share the data beyond key performance measurements. There are reports on the ODF website and a story map through Esri available as well.

XII. Chair Barnes adjourned the meeting at 3:30pm.