



NW Regional Forest Practice Committee

Meeting Minutes for May 12, 2026

I. Attendance

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Absent
Mike Barnes, Chair Candace Bonner Randy Silbernagel	Aaron Zweber Dave Wells Rob Van Curler	Eric Kranzush
ODF Staff		Guests/Public
Greg Erb Adam Coble Mellony Hoskinson Nicole Howard Rebecca McCoun Kyle Abraham Thomas Whittington Jennifer Ward Arden Guinn	Kaden Flick Scott Swearingen Don Everingham Tim Moss Dave Thompson Spencer Mitchell Kate Skinner Emily Gregorio	Meghan Tuttle Barbara McIntosh Eric Farm Jeremy Webster Kirsten Ressel Rod Krahmer Tally Patton

II. Chair Comments – Chair Barnes

- Chair Barnes called the meeting to order at 9:00am.
- A quorum was established.
- No public comments or changes to the agenda noted.
- Tally Patton was recognized for her years of commitment to the committee.

III. Agency Updates – Kyle Abraham and Don Everingham

- Kyle Abraham provided a division update. The following was noted:
 - Reviewed organizational charts: there have been few changes since last meeting, Mike Kroon will retire at the end of June.
 - The second draft of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) was submitted in December 2025 to the Services (US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)). There has been engagement from the Services, but the agency anticipates more information to share at the fall committee meeting.
 - Board of Forestry (BOF) rulemaking:
 - Post-disturbance harvest rules went into effect March 2026.
 - Tethered logging rulemaking closed in March 2026 with the only change being that a plan for alternate practice (PFAP) is no longer required on

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- activities within 100 feet of a stream channel that would not create excavated or compacted skid trails. Steep slopes still require PFAP.
- The Training team is working on internal and external training videos; some videos are available on the website.
 - Action Item: Jennifer Ward to send the link to the YouTube channel and add the regional committees to the distribution list for when new videos are completed.
- Compliance Monitoring work is ongoing:
 - Land access permission will be requested this fall for a one-year pilot study for roads and steep slopes. The study will include rules related to written plan requirements and culverts, bridges, and other permanent spanning structures.
 - Action Item: Adam Coble to send the protocol for the pilot study to the committee members.
 - The full riparian study will start next year. It is currently undecided if full studies will be completed by agency staff or a contractor.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) participated in a tour which included four different operation areas to see the new Private Forest Accord (PFA) rules in action. There was positive feedback from this.
- Operator of the Year (OOY) directive changes are still underway, and nominations are due by June 19th.
 - Dave Wells emphasized the importance of the OOO program, encouraging nominations.
- Don Everingham provided an area update. The following was noted:
 - The agency has a new State Forester, Kacey KC, appointed by the governor. Her priorities include getting the State Forest and PFA HCPs completed, building a strategic plan for the agency, and working with federal partners on a shared stewardship agreement.
 - Kacey KC appointed Kate Skinner as acting Deputy State Forester with the intention of permanently appointing her at the June Board of Forestry meeting.
 - BOF members Chair Jim Kelly, Brenda McComb, and Joe Justice have term ends this year, so new members will be appointed.
 - The area is anticipating an early fire season based on environmental conditions;
 - Three of five District Foresters are new within the last year, recruiting for Tillamook is underway.
 - Committee recruitment is underway to fill three vacancies in the region.

IV. Abandoned Roads Inventory – Kaden Flick and Arden Guinn

- Kaden Flick and Arden Guinn provided a presentation. The following was noted:
 - The abandoned roads inventory is just for large landowners, small landowners are asked about abandoned roads on a road condition assessment (RCA) because there is grant money available to them to help correct it. Data collected from small landowners indicating abandoned roads also helps the agency support the need for additional grant funding.

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- Classifying roads identified on LIDAR by only remote sensing is difficult and requires field verification to be certain.
- Field verification will include explaining that it is not an abandoned road, as described in rule. Some roads may be considered inactive for forest management purposes.
- Chair Barnes stated he feels the Small Forestland Investment in Stream Habitat program (SFISH) funding is not what it started out to be under the PFA.

V. Forest Practice Technical Guidance (FPTG) Update – Scott Swearingen and Thomas Whittington

- Scott Swearingen provided an update on the progress of the FPTGs. The following was noted:
 - The water crossing guidance is finalized and available on the website.
 - The water classification guidance is being finalized.
 - Both the water crossing structures guidance for workplan development and the channel migration zone identification guidance will be up for committee review this year.
 - The other FPTG are expected to be up for committee review next year.
 - Thomas Whittington provided an overview of the finalized water classification guidance.
 - Action Item: Scott Swearingen to send the link for the finalized version on website to the committee.
 - The 2026 Forest Practice Administrative Rules and Forest Practices Act version with added post-disturbance harvest rules is available on the website.

VI. Fish Survey Protocol – Thomas Whittington and Rod Krahmer

- Thomas Whittington and Rod Krahmer provided a presentation. The following was noted:
 - Committee members to send comments to Forestresources.Committees@odf.oregon.gov by May 26.
 - Candace Bonner noted that the document is clear and explains things well, but that small landowners may have difficulty finding time and equipment to complete the process. It was discussed that ODFW and ODF staff can help.
 - Chair Barnes noted the difficulty for small landowners and concerns with ownership differences in segments. It was discussed that the agencies are obligated to use the data provided and will look at upstream and downstream data as well.
 - There is a physical habitat assessment that can be used to determine if a stream is fish bearing without observing any fish as well as where a stream would be flowing if it is not present at the time of survey.
 - Surveyors will still need to go upstream of a barrier to confirm it really is a barrier and that there are no resident isolated fish populations.
 - Online training will be offered and recorded after the protocol is approved and released to landowners. In person training opportunities in five areas of the state will also be made available, likely around October.

VII. Perennial Stream Model Development – Adam Coble

- The original deadline for a model was July 1, 2025, but the first model was determined to be insufficient for regulatory purposes. The deadline was adjusted to July 1, 2026, by BOF rule adoption.
- Three models are to be reviewed, one by TerrainWorks and two by United States Geological Survey (USGS):
 - The TerrainWorks model has been ran for six pilot watersheds, mainly for small type-N streams, to estimate the probability of perennial flow on the stream reach. This data will be used to help identify the transition between perennial and seasonal flow with prediction values ranging from zero to one with one being one-hundred percent confident of perennial flow. This model uses Bayesian approach. Slides were shared to illustrate this information. ODF will test the model with field survey points.
 - One USGS model is based on the existing model. USGS is working to finalize inputs and produce predictions on a statewide basis. This model uses random forest framework and does not incorporate Forest Practices Act (FPA) data but can be used on current hydrography layer.
 - The other USGS model uses a Bayesian approach to predict probability of perennial flow along stream reach. This model uses FPA data for model evaluation but not model development. The output may not match ODF hydrography data, creating backend work.
- The analysis for the TerrainWorks model is almost complete, and data from USGS is expected in May and June for the respective models.
- Once published, landowners will still have the option to do a survey.
- Candace Bonner noted that some perennial streams have dried up due to drought some years. It was discussed that the agency is currently focused on getting the primary pieces in place for the model and then looking at year to year variation at a later time.

VIII. Committee Discussion Topics – Chair Barnes

- Chair Barnes led a discussion around opportunities to increase engagement from the committees. The following was noted:
 - Committee chairpersons and area representatives met in April to discuss the roles, responsibilities, and engagement of the regional committees. The committee would like to find ways to maintain relevance to the agency as industry professionals by being a more prominent voice, being proactive with topics to discuss at meetings, and meeting with Board members as well as the State Forester. It was decided that the committee members will provide topics that they would like to address as a committee, particularly around rule implementation, to help build a workplan that drives the meeting agendas.
 - Topics mentioned were as follows:
 - Dave Wells: Identifying innovative techniques for committee review and possible rulemaking opportunities.
 - Candace Bonner: Impacts of forestry and climate change on each other.

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- Rob Van Curler:
 - a. Perennial model remote sensing option for part of the survey.
 - b. Forest Road Inventory Assessment (FRIA), wet weather haul rules around WOTS versus channel, sedimentation delivery around WOTS versus channel.
 - c. There is a discrepancy in how to cross a stream under stream crossing rules versus harvesting rules.
- Chair Barnes:
 - a. An easier way for large industrial landowners to do completions and maintain a list of what they need to submit at the end of the year.
 - b. Understanding the efficacy of tax incentive option for non-industrial private forestland owners.
- o Action Item: Chair Barnes to reach out to committee members before the next meeting for which specific items to discuss.
- o Dave Thompson noted that Stewardship Foresters are looking to have committee feedback on Adaptive Management Committee (AMPC) work as field experts and to help explain the “why” behind the new rules.
- o The three agency areas ranked topics as follows:

Topic	East	South	Northwest
Revised Fish Survey Protocol	6	2	6
Abandoned Roads Inventory Process Development	1	1	5
Perennial Stream Flow Model	4	2	4
HCP Status	5	5	7
Operator of Year Process Changes	2	4	2
Completion Reporting	3	3	3
Commercial Thinning / Ash Management in RMAs	-	-	1

- o Adam Coble gave an overview of the ongoing AMPC work and mentioned that their objective is to identify whether the rules are effective and whether the biological goals and objectives of the HCP are effective.
- o Candace Bonner expressed interest in inviting members of the Board of Forestry to meetings.

IX. The meeting ended at 1:42pm.