



SW Regional Forest Practice Committee Meeting Minutes for May 19, 2026

I. Attendance

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Absent
Steve Swanson, Chair Hunter Kjos Chris Arnold	Michael Scott Kale Woolsey	N/A
ODF Staff		Guests/Public
Dave Larson TJ Ramos Jay Morey Nick Haile Greg Erb Adam Coble Mellony Hoskinson	Kaden Flick Scott Swearingen Kate Skinner Emily Gregorio Jennifer Ward Arden Guinn	Rod Krahmer Seth Barnes

II. Chair Comments – Chair Swanson

- Chair Swanson called the meeting to order at 9:00am.
- A quorum was established.
- No public comments or changes to the agenda noted.

III. Agency Updates – Jennifer Ward and Dave Larson

- Jennifer Ward 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.
 - Board of Forestry (BOF) rulemaking:
 - Post-disturbance harvest rules went into effect March 2026.
 - Tethered logging rulemaking closed in March 2026 with only change being that a plan for alternate practice (PFAP) is no longer required on activities within 100 feet of a stream channel that would not create excavated or compacted skid trails. Steep slopes still require a PFAP.
 - a. The agency will monitor PFAPs and report any violations; there have been no citations since tethered logging started.
 - b. The template has been updated and is available on the website.
 - The Training team is working on internal and external training videos; some videos are available on the website.

Pursuant to public notice made by news release with statewide distribution, a meeting of the Southwest 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 Roseburg, Oregon on May 19, 2026, hosted by the ODF Forest Resources Division.

- 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. For steep slopes, the focus will be on debris flow traversal areas and written plans.
 - The pilot riparian study report is in drafting, the full study will start next year on operations occurring in 2026. It is currently undecided if full studies will be completed by ODF staff or a contractor.
 - Action Item: Adam Coble to send the protocol for the pilot study to the committee members.
- 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.
- The second draft of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) was submitted in December 2025 to the Services (US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). There has been engagement from the Services, but the agency anticipates more information to share at the fall committee meeting.
- Dave Larson provided an area update. The following was noted:
 - Southern Oregon Area downsized due to decreased NRCS funding.
 - There is Landscape Restoration Program work underway: one in Douglas County and another in Jackson, Josephine and a little of Douglas counties.
 - The number of notifications and inspections are up.
 - Operator of the Year nominations are due June 19th.
 - The agency is prepared for fire season given environmental conditions; some districts are already in fire season.
 - The Good Neighbor Authority program moved to State Forest Division; the agency anticipates increasing capacity for that program in the coming years.
 - ODF has a new State Forester, Kacey KC, appointed by the governor. Kacey KC appointed Kate Skinner as acting Deputy State Forester with the intention of permanently appointing her at the June BOF meeting.
 - Committee recruitment is underway to fill three vacancies in the region.
- Kate Skinner noted BOF members Chair Jim Kelly, Brenda McComb, and Joe Justice have term ends this year, recommendations for new members are welcome to Kacey KC and Kate Skinner.

IV. Abandoned Roads Inventory – Kaden Flick and Arden Guinn

- Kaden Flick and Arden Guinn provided a presentation; the following was noted:
 - Classifying roads identified on LIDAR by only remote sensing is difficult and requires field verification to be certain.

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- On the field verification form, landowners would list site conditions and proposed action. The process with the districts has not been established yet.
- The suitability map is used to prefilter information that is then filtered further by prioritization. The suitability map data is weighted with water at the highest weight – the slide on suitability model lists the priorities as bullet points from highest to lowest.
- Chair Swanson noted the need for perpetual record retention of data of vacated roads.
- Greg Erb recommended including the Stewardship Forester in vacating roads projects early and often to ensure timely corrections are made and so they can provide support where needed.
- There will be additional data collection with the aim of having regional samples including the eastside.

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

- 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.
 - Scott Swearingen 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.
 - Chair Swanson encouraged people to submit nominations for Operator of the Year, highlighting the value of the program and positive impact of being recognized both for the winner and the industry.

VI. Fish Survey Protocol – Scott Swearingen and Rod Krahmer

- Scott Swearingen and Rod Krahmer provided a presentation. The following was noted:
 - Committee members to send comments to Forestresources.Committees@odf.oregon.gov by June 2nd.
 - A joint ODF and ODFW 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 timeframe.
 - The goal is to have the protocol completed by July, training in the fall, and an effective date of January 1st for implementation to next spring.
 - Chair Swanson expressed concern about the amount of information requested in the form from a feasibility aspect.
 - An application is being considered, but a paper form is used in the immediacy.

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- Stewardship Foresters can share end of fish points.

VII. Chair Swanson adjusted the agenda to review the next agenda topic before lunch.

VIII. 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 and calibrate with field survey points.
 - One USGS model is based on the existing model, to predict perennial flow probability. USGS is working to finalize inputs and produce predictions on a statewide basis.
 - The other USGS model uses a Bayesian approach like TerrainWorks but is further behind and the output may not match ODF hydrography data.
- The next steps are for ODF and ODFW to do their analyses and then decide which model to use by the deadline. The agencies are still working through a plan for rolling out the final model statewide.
- The model is intended to replace the current flowline layer but will not override areas where there is actual survey data.
- ODF is currently working with TerrainWorks to update the existing hydrography layer based on updated LIDAR, mostly in the eastside and some in southwest.

IX. Committee Discussion Topics – Chair Swanson

- Chair Swanson 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. 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:
 - Chris Arnold:
 - a. Forest Activity Electronic Reporting and Notification System (FERNS) completion reporting is clunky, especially with sorting.
 - b. Ability to request a continuation in FERNS.
 - Hunter Kjos:

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- a. Abilities in FERNs to search your own notifications, request operator and landowner changes, enter 0 MBF, and add activity categories for pipe installation.
- b. StreamStats services have been decommissioned, would like to have a standard tool to use for both industry and Stewardship Foresters.
- c. Helicopter spray notification requirement of the day before and the day after is cumbersome, especially in areas with no cell service at time of notification.
- d. New technical guidance releases need better communication to ensure industry is aware of them.
- Michael Scott: flow permanence surveys take time and money; having a model is high priority.
- Kale Woolsey: recently had a 25-foot no cut buffer with flowing water in it, had to put additional 10-foot Retention–Equipment Limitation Zone (R-ELZ) causing the layout forester to cover the same ground twice for flagging.
- Chair Swanson:
 - a. Make in water work period waiver paperwork process more streamlined, maybe basin-wide or project-wide.
 - b. Significant number of items considered “imminent risk” being found while doing initial Forest Road Inventory Assessment (FRIA) inventory. The cost, resources, and time to fix these is a concern.
 - c. Volume and non-standardized type of incoming data from FRIA inventories and the ability for the agency to provide feedback to adjust data.
- o There is no timeline for uploading a stream survey into the layer, and Stewardship Foresters have access to the fish surveys if there is interest in the status of them.
- o Action Item: Chair Swanson to reach out to committee members before the next meeting for specific items to discuss.
- o The three ODF 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 Operator of the Year directive updates are still underway, but nothing has been completed and the workgroup has not met yet.

X. The meeting ended at 1:44pm.