



EO Regional Forest Practice Committee Meeting Minutes for May 27, 2026

I. Attendance

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Absent
Bob Messinger, Chair Todd Kurtz Bobby Douglas	Tim Rude Jeremy Grose Travis Erickson	N/A
ODF Staff		Guests/Public
Greg Erb Adam Coble Mellony Hoskinson Brandon Ferguson Thomas Whittington Brandon Vos Dustin Gustaveson Brian Pew Kevin Burdon	James Monteil Kaden Flick Scott Swearingen Emily Gregorio Jennifer Ward Arden Guinn Kirk Ausland Josh Lambert Brian Dally	Rod Krahmer Karin Stutzman

II. Chair Comments – Chair Messinger

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

III. Agency Updates – Scott Swearingen and Brian Pew

- Scott Swearingen provided a division update. The following was noted:
 - Reviewed organizational charts: Mike Kroon will retire at the end of June, a new State Forester has been appointed, Kacey KC, and Kate Skinner is the Interim Deputy State Forester.
 - Board of Forestry (BOF) rulemaking:
 - The 2026 Forest Practice Administrative Rules and Forest Practices Act version with added post-disturbance harvest rules is available on the website.
 - Post-disturbance harvest rules went into effect March 2026; training has been completed for Stewardship Foresters.
 - Tethered logging rulemaking closed in March 2026 with the 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.

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- a. The agency will monitor PFAPs and report any violations
- The training team is working on internal and external training videos, and 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 on roads 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.
 - The reforestation study showed 100% compliance in Eastern Oregon, lower in Western Oregon for private, non-industrial landowners.
 - Action Item: Adam Coble to send the protocol for the pilot study and the reforestation study report to the committee members.
 - The Adaptive Management Program Committee is overseeing the drafting of a literature review on Eastern Oregon for steep slopes. Their recommendations will go to the BOF and may result in rule changes.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) toured operation areas to see the new Private Forest Accord (PFA) rules in action, specifically looking at Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments, small type-N stream buffering, roads, and steep slopes. The tour included an active tethered logging operation. There was positive feedback from this.
- The Operator of the Year program currently has no nominations submitted, nominations are due June 19th, and the directive updates are still underway.
- 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.
- Brian Pew provided an area update. The following was noted:
 - The State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) will be presented at the upcoming BOF meeting.
 - There are vacancies in the committee, recommendations should be sent to Gina Miner.
 - Conditions in Eastern Oregon are dry; the area is preparing for an involved fire season.
 - The governor appoints BOF members and the Senate appoints them. Referenced ORS 526.009 and ORS 526.016 for more information.

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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- Known abandoned roads need to be disclosed by 2029 Forest Road Inventory Assessment (FRIA) deadline.
- ODF will use initial inventory as data for roads, digitize any shown in LIDAR, and then ask the landowner to verify any showing as high risk, high priority.
- There is work to be done on the model to make it more accurate for Eastern Oregon operations, the division is looking for landowners on the east side to pilot with.
- On the field verification form, landowners would list site conditions and proposed action including alternative actions to fully vacate it. If all four criteria are met during field verification, the landowner has the entire FRIA period (until 2044) to fit the road into their FRIA plans.
- The FRIA data portal will not be public access for data, but rather a way for landowners to work with ODF more efficiently for entries.
- There will be a FRIA report out as part of the HCP eventually, but it is unclear what that will look like and will likely be more generalized than landowner specific.
- The suitability map is used to prefilter information that is then filtered down more by prioritization. The suitability map data is weighted with water at the highest weight. The slide on the suitability model lists the priorities as bullet points from highest to lowest.

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.
 - There are other FPTG underway that 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.

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 June 10th.
 - Todd Kurtz expressed concern with the amount and complexity of information requested in the survey form. Rod Krahmer stated not all fields will be required and there may be more streamlining to be done by ODF and ODFW. Additionally, more information will help the biologist make a determination at submission.
 - Jeremy Grose commented that ODFW biologist and ODF Stewardship Forester involvement has been appreciated.

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- Historic surveys with documentation that are still valid can be reviewed and if they are determined to still be valid, the flowlines can be adjusted as needed.
- 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.

VII. Chair Messinger 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, estimating 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 is further behind and may not be considered due to timeline.
- The next steps are for ODF and ODFW to do their analyses and then decide which model to use by the deadline.
- The definition of perenniality for the model is the same as with the survey protocol.

IX. Committee Discussion Topics – Chair Messinger

- Chair Messinger 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:
 - Todd Kurtz: The fish survey form has a lot of information being requested on it.
 - Bobby Douglas: Would like to see rule changes on:
 - a. Aspen enhancement, specifically in how much conifer to cut out.
 - b. Conifer meadow encroachment – currently using PFAP process due to rules surrounding significant meadows.

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- c. Scenic highways are required to leave a certain amount of trees per acre, would like to see them used as fuel break for fighting fires.
- Travis Erickson: habitat restoration cut, especially with grant projects, could use some clarity as it currently feels like a gray area with the rules that are required on their restoration.
- Jeremy Grose: partial cuts in buffers on small and medium streams are difficult to implement because they require measuring every tree in the buffer. He recommends changing the language to “27 trees from the largest diameter class.”
- Tim Rude: landowners want to clean up timber areas for fire resiliency, but the value of timber is currently low and the cost to replant burdensome.
 - a. Bobby Douglas reiterated that fuels may be left on the landscape post-fire because the cost of the timber is not recouped and the cost to replant is high. He recommended a rule change to mirror what California has where replanting is not required post-fire if you cut.
- o Action Item: Chair Messinger to reach out to committee members before the next meeting for specific items to have discussed.
- 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

X. The meeting ended at 12:52pm.