



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

Committee for Family Forestlands

Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2019

DRAFT



Pursuant to public notice made by news release with statewide distribution, a committee meeting of the Committee for Family Forestlands [an advisory body to the Oregon Board of Forestry with authority established in Oregon Revised Statute 527.650] was convened on June 13, 2019 in the Santiam Room of the ODF Operations Building, 2600 State Street, Salem, Oregon

CFF Committee members participating:

Kyle Abraham, Chief ODF Private Forests Division
Evan Barnes, Committee Chair & SW Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Bonnie Shumaker, NW Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Kaola Swanson, Environmental Rep. (Pacific Forest Trust) (phone)
Rex Storm, AOL/OTFS Ex-Officio
Julie Woodward, OFRI Ex-Officio
Jim James, OSWA Executive Director Ex-Officio
Brad Siemens, USFS State & Private Forestry Ex-Officio
S. Mark Vroman, Industry Rep. (Voting) Hampton Family Forests
John Peel, EO Landowner Rep. (Voting) (phone)

ODF Staff:

Susan Dominique, Committee Administrative Support
Ryan Gordon, Family Forestland Coordinator
Jim Gersbach, Public Affairs
Danny Norlander, Forest Health Survey Specialist
Tim Holschbach, Fire Prevention and Policy Manager

Members not attending:

Gilbert Shibley, Landowner-At-Large (Voting)
Glenn Ahrens, OSU College of Forestry Ext. Ex-Officio

Guests:

Tim Murphy, DLCD
Barrett Brown, OSWA member

1. Welcome and Review of Agenda

Chair Barnes called the meeting to order and asked members to review the agenda and called for any additions.

2. Introductions/Roll Call

(See participant list above)

3. Approval of the May 2019 Minutes

Barnes asked for a motion to accept and approve the May Committee meeting minutes. Shumaker motioned to accept the minutes. Vroman seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion carried to approve the minutes from May 16th.

4. Public Comment – None offered.

5. Private Forests Division Update

Abraham began by noting that House Bill 2469A was signed by the Governor the previous Friday, a significant accomplishment for this Committee, OSWA and landowners. The bill provided a specific allowance for a secondary home site on family forestlands. He recognized everyone as having spent a lot of time on that effort helping to remove one of the barriers to succession planning and intergenerational transfer. James extended an offer from OSWA lobbyist Roger Beyer asking if CFF members wanted to do a ceremonial signing of that bill. The ceremony would include photographs in the Governor’s office signing the bill with member(s) present. The photo and news blurb could be used for promotional purposes. Barnes noted it would be a good opportunity to provide more public exposure. Members asked James to follow up on that opportunity and then questioned what the next steps were for the newly signed legislation. James surmised that each county will develop their own rules to implement the allowance as they do with all land

use laws but he didn't see any significant barriers to the adoption of the law statewide which goes into effect on January 1, 2020.

Abraham continued that the legislative session was winding down with the ODF budget bill before the Natural Resource Ways and Means Sub-committee. He shared that there were a lot of supplemental funding packages floating around that different representatives and senators are pushing relative to some of the work that the Wildfire Council is doing. The Suppression Sub-Committee of the Wildfire Council will have recommendations by September. He wasn't sure ultimately what the timing will be for solutions. The situation is critical for sustaining core business functions during long, persistent fire seasons. He added that House Bill 2020 the Cap and Trade bill had to date over 100 amendments and will be on the House floor in the coming week. The one thing to note, any offsets on private lands and state lands (with the exclusion of the Elliot and Common School Fund Lands) can be suspended by ODF if they are shown to have an adverse impact on mill supply. A very contentious topic with industrial timber, small forestland owners and folks that own mills and others that would be impacted. Swanson noted that proving adverse impacts are directly tied to Cap and Trade offsets versus market viability is going to be a very challenging part of implementation.

Abraham reported on the June Board of Forestry meeting. The Board ultimately went with the staff recommendation for the Siskiyou Streamside Protection Review deciding that there wasn't enough information to make a decision currently and the Agency needed to prioritize additional work. The Committee supported the staff recommendation, their letter well received. And from the SW RFPC, Dave Erickson, provided testimony in support and the EO RFPC also provided a letter in support. From Kyle's perspective the Board meeting went pretty well. The Board made a decision that stayed within the timeframe and discussed amongst themselves what pieces of information were needed and relevant. Part of the recommendation was to work with DEQ relating to the TMDL analysis and expand the scope of the existing literature review for temperature and DFC. The object is to come back to the Board with a plan that reduces the subject priority but fits it realistically in terms of time, effort, and relevance to the FPA.

Swanson expressed some confusion as to why additional study is required rather than accepting statistics already available from other areas across the state on the relationship between shade and stream temperatures. She acknowledged that there may be different biology and ecology there but the relationship between shade and stream temperature, vegetation presence, absence and stream temperature is pretty consistent. So how much existing research could reasonably be extrapolated to this area?

James suggested that the effects of radiation were not the only factor that influenced water temperature. His interpretation was that RipStream and all the paired watershed studies showed that at 1000' downstream temperature reverts back to normal. So, knowing what factors are truly involved is critically important before determining if changes are necessary. He emphasized that the landowner community is going to be impacted by whatever those changes are. There was a brief discussion of the history of the RipStream Project site and why it focused in Western Oregon and why the Siskiyou georegion was left out of the Board's decision made on the Salmon, Steelhead and Bull Trout (SSBT) rules. Brown noted the Board's precautionary responsibility to juggle the real world exchanges of cost and benefit is a tough decision-space. He offered that the dearth of science left them unable to judge the debits and credits of stream buffer width changes. Abraham expressed that it was good to hear the members' discussion being very representative of the discussions that the Board is also struggling with, in terms of inputs, information, timing, and costs around making a decision. A revised recommendation that staff provided to the Board in terms of next steps specifically called out DEQ and ODF to work together to understand how TMDLs are put together. How the data that they have, the analysis they've done, relates to exclusively to forestland and what's going on in

their modeling work. Kyle agreed that the TMDLs have been developed to determine water quality or impairment but the connection to the Forest Practices side specifically is something that we don't know especially for Small and Medium streams.

Swanson advocated for more of a process for CFF making recommendations to the Board. A process that gives us the space to have the conversation to determine if there is consensus, or majority of opinion, at least acknowledge differing views when making a recommendation. As a newer member she noticed that it seems like the Committee is wanting to take a more active role than in the past and if that is the case some understanding, rules of engagement would be helpful. Woodward reminded members that many of the organizations that have representative members on CFF should be cognizant of the Committee's charge to represent family forestland owners specifically. Barnes suggested that there are strong views among the members and that they should be shared. Abraham offered to send some of the materials sent to the Board that outlined the ownership numbers for the Siskiyou region. Barnes advocated holding a meeting in that area with sufficient public notice to local landowners to invite input from potentially impacted landowners. Members seemed enthusiastic about the idea of rotating meeting locations.

Brown asked about putting some thought into how to communicate the Committee's conclusions and to what extent when there is a minority opinion expressed in discussion, how to present that information and set some parameters for a healthy discussion. Brown suggested working with the CFF Charter to formalize a process for recommendations and interactions. Abraham emphasized that as advisory to the Board there is always an opportunity and expectation that the CFF will provide feedback. Barnes added, with a family forestland focus. Kyle went on to say that the Committees are appointed by the Board to provide certain things to them based on their Charter or Mission. Early on the Board specifically told the Department to work with stakeholders *and committees* to evaluate the questions and ultimately help come up with the solutions for the Siskiyou. Swanson clarified it would be good to address the ways that the member's expertise and diversity of opinion form their recommendations which would add to their credibility. Brown offered to take the lead on draft language for the Charter around the recommendation process.

Barnes asked Swanson if she would provide a brief update on the last Wildfire Council meeting. She asked that Storm pitch in with his perceptions as he also attended. Swanson is on the Suppression Sub-committee and the Mitigation Sub-committee so attends the over-arching **Governor's Wildfire Council** meetings. She began by noting that being on more than one sub-committee she's been noticing some duplication of effort that seemed to need some untangling or better coordination in terms of how the sub-committees work. She sensed that the sub-committee chairs were well aware of the need for better alignment of efforts so that they don't provide different recommendations for the same thing in different programs. She reported that the Suppression Sub-committee met again and remained pretty focused on creating a menu of options for funding of necessary solutions. They are looking at the fire funding structure in other states to help identify any and all options to pay for fire. The consensus seems to be that fire is a statewide problem and the state needs to pay for that capacity. One benefit is also considering the options and payment structure that could be expanded to other emergency services like flooding or earthquake. The Suppression Sub-committee is due to report by September to the Wildfire Council.

In the Mitigation Sub-committee there has been a lot of conversation around the mapping that OSU Institute for Natural Resources has done for hazard mitigation and long term risk reduction. There is also interest in understanding the trade-offs associated with long term forest management as a tool for fire risk reduction. Storm clarified that relative to the family forest community is that the process of the Governor's Wildfire Council is divided into three components: Suppression; Adaptation; and Mitigation. But he sees there is an overwhelming dominance of attention focused on Suppression and secondarily on community response and

adaptation. The Mitigation, Prevention and hazards in the landscape appear to be relegated to a tertiary component of this effort at this time. So that being said the family forestland community is very concerned about the hazards on the landscape and in their role in fire protection and fire prevention across all Oregon ownerships but their voice doesn't appear to be valued in the politics of state government. They are doing everything they can to express that but the Mitigation committee doesn't include a single private forestland owner. And the private forestland community has urged inclusion of all key constituents and stakeholders on the Mitigation committee. The private landowner, family forestland community is a very important part of this effort and key in recognizing and mitigating hazards on the landscape. So far there has been no response towards efforts to seat a forestland owner(s) on that committee. Swanson agreed that everyone at the table has asked where the landowners are. Storm added that they are not public meetings. Barnes noted that the focus needs to be on Suppression now, the longer term solutions aren't as immediately important. But Storm still made the argument that no amount of money will be enough if they don't address the hazards on the landscape.

6. Fire Season Outlook

Tim Holschbach, the Fire Prevention and Policy Manager with ODF was invited to provide members an outlook on the current fire season. Following the previous line of discussion he agreed that prevention *is* a key component so he is very interested in Mitigation Sub-Committee and what their work is. The State of Oregon's policy is for the prevention and suppression of wildfires accomplished through a complete and coordinated fire protection system. Operationally that means aggressive, safe initial attack to keep fires small, to minimize their impact and keep suppression costs down.

He reported that a wide swath of the state is forecasted to have normal precipitation this summer but drought continues and worsens in the northwest corner of the State this year with a probability of 50% or better higher than average temperatures. Obviously dry lightning east or west is always a problem. So overall predictions are for an above average fire season especially west of the Cascades at this point. Barnes asked how fuel loads calculate into that, noting the storm damage fuel load in southern Oregon. Holschbach answer was that there are mechanisms they use to take that under consideration but they are usually based off growth models and storm damage is generally localized. He reiterated that the Significant Wildland fire potential outlook for June is showing the NW corner of Oregon is above normal at this point seeing primarily human-caused fires this time of year. A lot of incidents are from debris burning indicating further educational opportunities are needed. He emphasized that one of the key performance measures for the Legislature is to keep fires at 10 acres or less, emphasis on the aggressive initial attack.

Describing ODF's protected lands, there are 12 protection districts and associations along with Forest Service and BLM. The Forest Service and BLM are the major landowners on the east side. The Forest Service protects approximately half of that and we have 16.5 million acres of public and private forestlands under our protection. Holschbach described the acres burned comparatively since the 90's and that the acreage had doubled in the 2000's and the next decade doubled again to over 40,000 acres burned on ODF-protected lands. The number of fires had not drastically changed, roughly 1000 fires a year over those 30 years but the intensity of the fires has significantly changed. ODF has on average caught and extinguished 96% of the fires under 10 acres over this time period. But he noted that obviously once they get big they are harder to control which is why the emphasis is on initial attack as much as it is. Lightning-caused fires are unpredictable and usually occur striking areas of higher elevation which aren't easily accessed so those fires tend to get big before we have a chance to control them and much of that is on public lands. Human-caused fires are the ones we can actually prevent and prepare for. The actual numbers of human-caused fires has been steadily increasing with population growth. But Oregon's statistics are mirrored across the country. Storm shared that ODF-protects about a half the forests and the federal government protects the other half.

Barnes asked if there has been a general decline in Forest Service firefighting resources over the last 10 years. Tim volunteered that in general trying to secure resources is challenging with higher expenses and insufficient budgets at all levels. Initial attack is our bread-n-butter is what we try to hang our hat on. District offices working with our landowners and local operators and making sure to keep those fires under 10 acres. That is part of the base budget. And then we get to our Statewide Severity which is a mix of the Oregon Forestland Protection Fund (OFPF) as well as General Fund for securing a Severity hand crews and aviation resources. The Severity Resources that's our Air Tankers, SEATS, helicopters, hand crews, detection aircraft, can move around the state depending on where the weather is and the conditions on the ground when pre-staging resources when we have red flag warnings to be ready to assist that base level fire department resources. And then our Large Fire costs funding is a blend of GF, Insurance, FEMA, and Oregon Forestland Protection Fund, a very complex system. We have a real robust aviation program in Oregon and have secured quite a few aviation resources for the summer under our Exclusive Use contracts. There's 17 of them in the Severity Program stationed around the State. We also have 9 State or Association-owned aircraft or contracted ones. We also have 195 air resources under call-when-needed contracts as we have fires, we can call them up and bring them in and put them under our resource orders and our control make sure we have the aviation assets we need to support our firefighters on the ground. The Oregon Forestland Protection Fund had some leftover authorities in 2016 to be able to provide strategic investments in detection camera systems which allow us quicker detection in good weather conditions for those initial attack fires. Especially early season. But when it gets a little bit smoky sometimes they don't work as well. So the OFPF provided additional investment for infrared technology that lets them see through the smoke and it can be used with GIS technology to be able to let the boots on the ground know where the hot spots are. Seeing through the smoke we can better focus our attack and keep track of spot fires. Protection also uses satellite imagery which displays smoke as it's progressing through the state and to determine where it's coming from. In addition, he reported that they have recently invested in getting an unmanned aerial vehicle system under contract which is a valuable asset on the fire line for recon. When we get smoked out aviation assets are moved to where they are most effective so they aren't left grounded waiting on conditions.

A member asked about how all the funding and in-kind contributions work within the fire budget. Holschbach explained that District budget directions are established locally with the district budget committees. Each Forest Protective Association has a budget committee. The budgets are designed to be built around the second worst fire season to forecast for an adequate level of protection. Once the budget is built it is spread equitably across the acreage of forestland within a district. So there is a per acre, pro rata cost associated with that. The public lands, state forest program, other state agencies pay the full rate. For the private landowners they pay 50% of the pro rata rate. And then the GF pays the other 50%. There is also an Admin pro rate covering the Salem portion of it and the overhead for the Large Fire Administration. Public landowners pay the Admin prorated for their acres and for private landowners the General Fund pays. So that is where the in-kind ends up. So the Admin Prorate is picked up by the General Fund for the private forestland owner with the recognition of in-kind contributions from private forestland owners. Routine studies to put a value on the in-kind contributions of operators and forestland owners coming out to 50%. That's where that came from and put into statute. We rely a lot on our operators and landowners to help with the initial attack resources. It's actually landowner's responsibility to abate fire on their property. So with that in mind we recognize that it is a very strong and necessary partnership with private forestland owners to assist with those resources. The Districts put together a Mobilization Plan that outlines the private resources available within an area, especially important for Initial Attack locating the closest resources. Also includes locally established pre-agreements with a host of contractors to help fight fires when available. On top of that there are regulated in-kind contributions with notified operations that ODF regulates on private forests in Oregon. There is regulated prevention, precaution and response requirements of every operation

activity that occurs out there. So landowners and the operators are paying a huge share as part of that base local response that stops things from getting worse. Tim added that another part is the Interagency Fire Crew Agreement with 59 contractors with about 250 hand crews that we have access to as well as the federal resources that are available through other agreements that we are part of.

7. OFRI Value & Beliefs Survey

Julie Woodward, Ex-officio member representing the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, provided members with an overview of what OFRI does for forestry education. Part of that educational focus is determined by the results of a 3rd party contracted survey of the Values and Beliefs of Oregon. As far as determining forest landowner education they rely on groups like the Committee for Family Forestlands to think about and communicate what landowners need to know. OFRI has K-12 public education and outreach program and depends on these surveys to know what is on the mind of Oregonians in regards to the forests tracking public awareness and clarifies what educational outreach is needed. They run targeted advertising on TV in a variety of different formats. In general they've had 3 core messages: forest practices laws that regulate reforestation, protect wildlife, and water. Partnering in the survey the Dept. of Forestry and sometimes Keep Oregon Green and other partners may request additional questions be added to inform them of general public perceptions specific to their efforts.

She reported they updated their survey methodology from phone survey to electronic surveys. Which led unexpectedly to be an important change when looking at trends they found that there is a certain gender and a certain age that will not admit to a lack of knowledge over the phone. But will admit if they are marking answers online. Questions such as: What do you value the most about Oregon's forests? Which industries are important to the State? Basically questions about how knowledgeable people considered themselves about forestry and wood product industry in Oregon. The survey discovered that for all the different sectors people online tend to describe themselves in a middle range of opinion versus the more extreme variances when on the phone. Part of what we tried to get at is that knowledge about forestry products has decreased over time. She surmised that some of it correlates directly to the increased population. Those that have lived here 30 years or more will rate much higher at knowing versus those that have established themselves as new comers or under 35 tend to rate as not as knowledgeable. So the other thing that survey contractor DHM notes is they don't hear as much is people knowing people working in the industry. So there is not as much of, my grandpa was in the industry, or my dad worked, or my mom worked. For them there is not as much direct correlation anymore with people that worked in the industry.

Woodward continued that they asked questions like, "Does the law require Oregon forestland owners to replant trees after harvest? Does the Oregon law require landowners to protect forest streams? Does it require protecting fish and wildlife habitat?" Then, do you think that those laws exist? Over 7 in 10 are aware that Oregon requires protection for wildlife, habitat and replanting. So OFRI uses this information to kind of gauge the messaging needed and if the trends are positive or not. In 2015 their Board of Directors decided to make some shifts to the educational advertising. The focus over the last few years has been on wood products and not as much on the laws. Now they are seeing a decrease in knowledge of forest laws and the Directors have re-focused core messages to that downward trend.

Woodward continued to report that this survey indicated that about half of Oregonians are aware of forestry protections and generally more in favor of active forest management. So knowledge of those laws are a gateway to inform understanding of forestry in Oregon which maintains the social license to manage the forests. Another question was, what do Oregonians know about the different forest landowner types in Oregon? The survey indicated that the public generally think state government rules the world. They grossly overestimated State ownership, and underestimated Federal. But ironically private ownership comes out

about the same. But they don't know for sure who owns what. When asked how respondents would rate private landowner performance replanting trees, protecting fish and wildlife or protecting drinking water, a little over half were aware that there are laws, but were uncertain the regulations were strong enough.

As for the additional questions ODF asked in this year's study the first one was: "In your opinion, which of the following is the biggest threat to Oregon's forest?" Wildfire was listed as the biggest threat across nearly all demographic groups including those that have lived in Oregon the longest who also identified lack of forest management as a top threat. Younger demographics are as likely to say 'climate change'. When determining where people go for information, the Department of Forestry is rated highest. Then the Internet and local tree care companies. Extension was mentioned as well. The summary reflected that Oregon's views on the forestry and wood products industry were favorable but knowledge of the industry continues to decline. They are noticing a lack of awareness of the current legal protections which again is why OFRI does these, to make sure they can redirect our messaging. So this is kind of results that OFRI uses as next steps to continue outreach about key legal protections and directing that outreach to younger Oregonians and those who have moved here with the past ten years as they see that's where most of the gap about forest sector knowledge is.

Brown shared his personal appreciation for OFRI's work with the public and noted he personally has found there is so much the public doesn't know especially in the interface areas. He blamed some public ignorance upon special interest messaging in absolutes of various extremes that create bad faith in the industry and state management of resources.

8. Food Plot Draft Rule Review

Norlander passed around the current draft of the Wildlife Food Plots rule language along with a copy of the actual statute. He wanted to include some discussion around the invasive species language, de-establishment sections, abandonment and other less informed situations. He began with a quick overview of the rulemaking process. His goal presenting was to get some final Committee comments to tighten up the draft and share with the Regional Forest Practice Committees fall meetings for their input. Then complete finalizing the language and take the proposed rule to the Board probably in January. Within that time period between now and then staff will also be doing public hearings one in each Area to gather input. He affirmed that his intent was to get it close to finalized prior to any public meetings.

He was asked about his inclusion of comments provided by members the last time regarding de-establishing or moving plots. He confirmed that he incorporated the substance of the members input within Seed Establishment under Section A. Addressing part of what to be considered if the plots go unmanaged/abandoned. Then added language under Establishment and Monitoring regarding avoidance of invasive species via live plant materials, noxious plants, insects and diseases. There was a question about whether the proposed rules should require native plants. The draft language doesn't restrict it to just native plant species, but looked to where these plots are used in the southern states and they manage small plots of corn or bean cropping to attract ungulates. He stated that he did consult with ODF&W as an obvious resource but not named in the rule but will be included with resources/contacts for development of food plots will be part of draft technical note guidance.

Abraham then suggested a walkthrough of the draft section by section to address any language concerns. Norlander began with Section 1 describing it as the 'Intent'. Section 2 are Definitions (mostly pulled from statute). Section 3 is Eligibility. (Which was determined by the statute to be available to landowners with less than 5000 acres of forestland but greater than 10 acres.) Section 4 describes the size limitations as a percentage of total acres and that was set out in that statute as well. Section 5 describes Establishment of the

plot, and required information for a project plan, mapping the proposed plot, the target species; vegetative forage species and verification of maintenance activities. That section also provides guidance on choice of seed mixes and plant species. For establishment forage vegetation may not be on ODA's noxious weeds list. And then Section 6 Maintenance in accordance with the original notification *and still to be determined actions* to provide evidence of maintenance and establishment in the first 24 months. As it is a forest operation, notification is required and changes to the Plan must be notified as well. Like changes to location, continuation of forest use, or abandonment, which then kicks in the Reforestation timetable (Section 7 and 8). He noted if the landowner wants it to be reverted back but through natural regeneration you need to have that as part of the plan. The FPA reforestation timeline and free-to-grow rules apply if the plot is not actively maintained. Then there was discussion of the capabilities available in the FERNS system for tracking and reminders and upload of maintenance reports. James added that he didn't think this allowance would be largely used. And consideration of costs was important factor in evaluating monitoring and maintenance efforts. Abraham agreed that they needed to weigh the benefits of long term monitoring and the use of the electronic system, which has significant cost when there are changes or modifications so the Division needs to prioritize resources. In response to a question regarding tax assessment, Norlander reiterated that the intent is that it would continue to be considered forest land and assessments for fire protection would continue. He noted that these were addressed under Section 9: Continuation as Forestland.

Abraham continued that over the course of the summer they are going to try to put together the public hearings as required under the Secretary of State requirements and get the majority of the administrative work done and get it to the RFPC's in October. Swanson suggested that it would be helpful to have a case study prepared about how it would look in practice, and what outcomes there could be. Brown noted that public messaging should emphasize the use of food plots provides a forest ecosystem benefit to the State.

LUNCH

After lunch, Gordon (recently back in the Division after 9 months interim Director for Public Affairs), took the opportunity to provide some Incentive updates starting from a high level and then working down to some more specific current happenings in programs. Starting out he talked about 3 big things coming together. One is the **Forest Stewardship Program** which is going through a re-vamp because of the limited funding. Secondly things that are related closely to the **State Forest Action Plan**. That is a plan that Oregon puts together for the Forest Service, State and Private Forestry that helps to guide how we are investing federal dollars in Oregon. That Plan is up for renewal in 2020 and agencies are working through a process right now to get that accomplished. Tying all this together, the 3rd piece is **Shared Stewardship** which is the latest iteration of collaborative landscape scale work that's coming from the Forest Service. This iteration really focuses on the cultural shift of giving States a little bit more of a say in the management of Federal forest lands.

Fitting all those programs together there is a nice opportunity, especially with the **Federal Forest Restoration Program**, the **Good Neighbor Authority** and our **NRCS Statewide Agreement** for engaging non-industrial forest landowners. Opportunity for us to align all of this to really focus our work on some specific resource needs that would be identified through our **State Forest Action Plan** and leveraging the landowner assistance side NRCS with work that we are doing on federal lands, through the Good Neighbor Authority and so doing build our own sort of Joint Chiefs projects allowing us to effectively work on both sides of the fence. (Federal and Private.) That's the high level piece.

More practically speaking he added that they are in the process of adding additional funds in our Agreement with NRCS to help feed that statewide work, where our stewardship foresters are providing technical

assistance to landowners in the EQIP and that also helps to support Joint Chiefs, **Regional Conservation Partnership Program** (RCPP) projects correlating our work on the federal side with our work on the private lands side.

The **Emergency Forest Restoration Program** (EFRP), a Farm Service Agency (FSA) Program has had a huge uptick of interest. There is a sign-up open right now in Jackson and Josephine Counties for folks impacted broadly by wildfire in either the 2017 or 2018. Then in Douglas County a sign-up for folks impacted by drought as well as the February storm along with interest in Lane County as well for both drought and storm damage. And a sign-up open right now in Wasco County for last year's fire impacts there. It's been a pretty helpful program for a landowners, but has some challenges implementing that on the administrative side.

Siemens added that the funding is uncertain for the future of the **Joint Chiefs** but State & Private Forestry will continue to support the same philosophical approach to working across land ownerships through things like Shared Stewardship so it is good to have other ways to approach that same type of work. Brad wanted also to announce that the NRCS just hired a new State Forester for Oregon, Andrew Owen. Owen came to NRCS from the Department of Forestry in Arizona where he did a really great job of building relationships between Forestry and NRCS and handled the Forest Stewardship Program and Forest Legacy Program. Gordon shared looking forward to working with Owen to create some consistency in the way we work with NRCS statewide applying rules around management planning.

Gordon ended by mentioning new Joint Chiefs Projects funded this year. One is in the Chiloquin area, through the **Klamath/Lake Forest Health Partnership** and this Chiloquin Project is the same approach they took with the Warner Project but now they will be working with a lot of landowners that have small ownerships versus fewer owners with large ownerships which he sees as a challenge. And then the other Joint Chiefs that was funded in the Tiller area down in Douglas and Josephine Counties. He didn't know a lot of the details of that project yet.

9. Farm & Forest Report – Tim Murphy, DLCD

Abraham introduced Murphy and reminded members that he had come before the group previously to shed light on land use planning in Oregon providing some background to members working on the additional dwelling legislative concept HB 2469 which was successful. Abraham invited Murphy to return and provide an overview of the **Farm and Forest Report** that DLCD publishes which is valuable information to understand regarding the trends of land use development in Oregon, particularly in the forested setting.

Murphy acknowledged that the Report speaks in terms of the 2016 data, but it is the latest reported information as it takes time to process raw data and compile the 70 page report. The Report documents approvals for dwellings, non-residential uses, land divisions, zone changes, urban growth boundaries and also Measure 49 approvals. This report is mandated by the Legislature and based upon information submitted to DLCD by the counties. He began with dwelling types on Oregon forest lands.

- Template dwellings are the most frequently approved dwelling type on forest land. Basically drawing 160 acre rectangle around the property and within that template there has to be at least 3 dwellings and parcels within that rectangle that existed before 1993.
- Large Tract Dwellings which are approved if you have a certain number of acres (depending upon what part of the state).
- Lot of Record Dwelling which allows a dwelling on forest land under the same family ownership since 1985.
- Replacement Dwelling

- Temporary Hardship Dwelling for aged or infirmed family that needs to stay on the property for medical purposes.
- And now the Relative Forest Dwelling (HB 2469) to aid with forest management and intergenerational transfer.

Summarizing, Template dwelling approvals decreased a bit over the biennium. Hardships jumped up quite a bit. Lane County is very popular with Template dwellings but their numbers were down as well. The Template dwellings seem to follow changes in the economy. Clackamas had 31 Hardship approvals which is more than all of the other counties in the state combined. Most of the new permanent dwelling approvals seems to be a western Oregon phenomenon. Lane, Jackson and Coos Counties tend to approve a lot of Template dwellings. Land divisions? There are different reasons why you would want to divide forestland for forest practices but you can divide the land if you have 2 dwellings on one parcel that was established before a certain date. For certain non-residential uses you could divide land if you have the forest parcel partially in an urban growth boundary, partially out, you can divide it along the boundary. Only 48 new parcels were created statewide in forest zones under these uses. Murphy shared that their Commission's role in Urban Growth boundaries is to prioritize land already zoned for development and place a lower priority on lands that are zoned for exclusive farm use or forest use. Over about 65% of the land that was taken into Urban Growth boundaries during that time was land that was zoned rural-commercial; rural industrial. Only 3% of that land was zoned forest. Overall the Urban Growth Boundary Expansion numbers look good for keeping forestland in forestland. There are also Rural Zone changes which would encompass changes from forestland to rural residential, things like that. It was not a high year for conversion of forest land. Speaking to the land use approvals and comparing land cover between Washington and Oregon, in the 19 years since development of the Washington land use program, about 550,000 acres were converted from farm and forestlands to development land. In the 30 years since Oregon adopted our land use plan we had only 350,000 acres converted from farm/forest to development lands. Only 336 acres statewide for the time period were re-zoned out of forest into zones that allow development like rural residential or rural commercial or UGB. The figures do not include anything related to Measure 49. Measure 49 allowed property owners the ability to get dwellings and parcels that they normally wouldn't be allowed under the State's land use rules. But during the 2016-2017 we were able to identify 53 *parcels* that were created in forest zones for Measure 49. We also identified 58 *dwellings* that were approved through Measure 49 for forest zones.

Murphy briefly summarized the changes on EFU lands. The farm numbers and dwelling types approved in 2016-17 on EFU land. Shifting to administration, Murphy shared that they are working on getting the data from the counties in a GIS format which can be compared to aerial photography, satellite technology and other means to verify compliance with the approvals. Another issue is that it was found that numerous solar installation approvals were on the high value farmland which led to our commission adopting more stringent rules on those placements. In some cases solar development was developed along with the farm use crop growing underneath the installations. Farm processing facility approvals went way up because of the marijuana legislation.

Barnes inquired about the next steps for HB 2469. Are the counties required to adopt it or was it optional? Murphy responded that the way the forest zones have been structured, counties do not necessarily have to adopt. There are no requirements for it in DLCD rules. But that hasn't been tested in court. He expected that most if not all counties will be excited to approve these as they are usually in favor of trying to give property owners have additional options.

10. 2019-2020 Work Plan Discussion

Barnes began asking for suggestions on the 2019-2020 Work Plan to be included in the 2017-19 Report to the Board. Work Plan issues from the last year were reviewed for status and priority. Abraham described the Work Plan as being the guiding principles that the Committee would want to consider. The objective of the plan is not necessarily to get any or all issues resolved or recommendations made but to focus the member's time on issues of importance to the family forestland owners and the issues that the Board currently is focused on. Swanson, fairly new to the process, asked if members were doing outreach with their local constituents to find out the major concerns their forestland neighbors would like to see addressed. She inquired about members' role in communicating out the business of the Committee. Brown also pending member asked about the BOF work plan and how the members could align the agendas to the BOF subjects and meeting dates.

Siemens suggested that some of the topics that Ryan mentioned earlier regarding incentives would certainly be timely topics over the year, especially the State Forest Action Plan update. Gordon pointed at Prescribed Fire frequently a topic of discussions statewide especially from the non-industrial landowners who want increased use of prescribed fire as a management tool particularly if dealing with slash. Gordon added that with increasingly cross-boundary work federal lands and on private lands, the federal agencies are trying to re-introduce fire where they can. Allowing that fire to burn across boundaries onto private land but a lot of questions around liability and deliberately setting the fire under controlled conditions.

Storm urged adding Family Forest Viability, specifically eastside viability to that list. Because it is an increasing difficulty for family forestlands to survive as part of the economy when dealing with a loss of markets, assessment rates, fire protection, hazards, insects and disease hazards on the landscape and conversions to non-forest uses. It's just increasingly difficult for family forest landowners to continue managing forestland over there.

Abraham suggested moving some of the meetings to the east side or south to invite local landowners directly affected by the issues, to inform the members about their concerns. He suggested John Peel the eastern Oregon representative could help provide some background and lean a bit on the District folks to solicit some feedback. Swanson added that Wallowa Resources is considering expanding their business model and would be good to recognize as a resource. Gordon said prescribed fire could be a topic of interest at a meeting in the east or south. Storm mentioned the Eastern Oregon Regional Forest Practices Committee as a resource as well for connections. Dominique suggested it would be a good refresher to involve some information or former eastern members to discuss the Ritter Project that was a Committee project for a significant period of time under different Committee membership.

Abraham suggested that the role of the Committee could improve in terms of outreach and education and OSU Extension and OFRI should be able to assist with that. Brown agreed and stated that it would be nice to develop or reinforce an obligation in the Charter on all of us to be a sphere of influence within our local networks and to share what the Committee learns. Do our best to share what we learn out of these meetings and processes. Shumaker said for example the dwelling allowance passed but we don't know how the counties are going to implement it or if there will be any barriers to its intended use, so keeping informed is important. Siemens added the prior suggestion regarding recommendation processes and expectations could be included as well. **(WHAT CAN MEMBERS DO TO CONNECT LOCALLY?)**

As far as the importance of **Forest Health** topics to the work plan Storm noted that there seems to be a continual flow of drought, storm damage, pests, and diseases happening in the State at different times so those updates are important. Swanson was asked if she would agree to provide updates on the business of the Wildfire Council. Swanson noted the issue of **Seed and Seedling Availability** for the work plan

continuing past efforts. Abraham agreed that it was a complex issue. Barnes reiterated Storm's prediction that the enormity of the problem hasn't surfaced yet and the loss of nursery bed space has left a huge dent on availability. Gordon was reminded of all the factors limiting solutions, including infrastructure, distribution and education. Storm saw not only a gap of information on the spec demand and a lack of conduits for nursery capacity unless the market is confirmed. A two year gap between need and demand. The small woodland owners don't harvest often enough to realize the need to plan ahead. Brown reacted that this seedling shortage was caused by assuming the free market would take over this availability which turned out to be a big mistake.

So under **Fire** members wanted to call out, Prescribed Fire; Private/Federal Fire Interface; Wildfire Hazards and Mitigation dealing with Defensible Space and Water Supply. Brown suggested a lot comes down to behavior management, providing education and enforcement when necessary to mitigate losses. Abraham agreed that would be something to consider. Brown offered that the Committee was uniquely poised to talk about that risk in terms of the perspective of risk for an entire family retirement or investment in flames. The members could have a unique role in painting a realistic picture of how important it is to prepare. So under 'Fire' there could be the **Wildfire Council Updates, Landscape-scale interface issues, fire prevention and mitigation/behavioral change**. He clarified that the Committee shouldn't replicate the smart work already happening but consider what it is that the members are uniquely positioned to talk about. Swanson thought that Chad Davis as a liaison to the Sub-committee could inform the group as well.

Members thought that **Forest Chemical Use** needed to remain on the list as it will continue to be an issue into the future. Barnes added **Education Needs for Family Forestland Owners; Climate Change?** Storm thought the topic of climate change too broad but to focus on being more responsive to any climate change legislation passed with nexus to forest resources. Brown added that the range of issues under Climate Change could be **adaptive management for pathogens, or carbon investment strategies, Cap and Trade**, etc. Swanson suggested for outreach even just providing a primer on what the impacts and opportunities are for forestland owners. Where and what rulemaking is happening. And how and when can you engage if you would like to. It may be pre-mature right now to say it, but looking forward.

Abraham agreed with Storm that there is a lot under a broad heading like **Climate Change** but any specific items today might be completely different in 3 months. But moving the Carbon Policy (issue) up in priority seems prudent. Kaola thought that Carbon Policy is a pretty narrow focus, but it is what is happening and is tied directly to the forest industry. Another topic, **Valuing Ecosystem Services** seems a reoccurring component as the rules become more restrictive and prescriptive. There were suggestions on an overarching subject, possibly **Forests & Water** and have **Stream Monitoring; Ecosystem Services** sub under that. **Specified Resources Sites; Conversion of Eastside Forestland; Public watersheds? Water Infrastructure? Siskiyou project?** Abraham thought of the Siskiyou as related more to Water Quality. Protected Resources relating to the FPA is most generally dealing with resource protections for birds. Abraham noted staff had plans to visit with the Board in terms of **Specified Resource Sites** Policy knowing that currently the rules are created species by species, not a very good approach for us to be in working from one petition effort to another. Barnes observed that the work plan can be adjusted as issues dictate but is good promotion of public perception and reporting out the intentions of the Committee before the Board.

Gordon summarized back what he has heard in the work plan discussion. He noted that some topics came up multiple times at a high level. A couple that seemed to invite more consideration to actively move the needle forward to recommendation. Others just informational. The second Tier seemed to be aligned more with ongoing business and follow up. Forest Health and Forest Chemicals. And ongoing effort to be engaged with emerging forestry issues. Brown suggested following the legal status of Recreational

Immunity regarding landowner liability protection. if they invite an individual onto their property. It affects all of us who have recreation activities or hunters that ask permission or trail users. But if you own 100 acres of forestland and people go across it with their motorbikes or their shotgun, or fireworks. The statute as intended is to provide complete immunity from gross, willful negligence. You have to intend to hurt somebody. Barnes reacted that it could have huge ramifications for the landowner if they were sued beyond their resources potentially losing everything. Brown believed that the State of Oregon wants this to happen, to have the community be able to hunt, walk on trails where allowed just for the livability of the State. Other liability issues are related to prescribed fire. So this is **Recreational Liability** or **Recreational Immunity**.

Barnes interrupted the agenda to thank Bonnie Shumaker for serving on the Committee, this meeting ended her term as NW Landowner representative. Barnes presented her a certificate documenting her meritorious service to family forestlands.

Gordon reflected back the ideas he heard. Some of the topics with a ‘hold date’ possibly Recreational Immunity and Climate Policy as legislative business was not concluded to date that had potential decisions on those subjects. Abraham added Seed and Seedling Availability. Also it was again affirmed that the potential for east side meetings was seen as a great opportunity to get a lot of information to begin formulating an idea about the challenges landowners face in those areas. Barnes added they could also consider a meeting further south regarding the Siskiyou effort.

11. Annual Report

Dominique brought the members up to speed on the Annual Report draft. The Chair’s introduction was pending along with the work plan update. And the due date to the Board’s packet was coming up quickly. Barnes noted he intends to highlight the Committee’s accomplishment with the new Forest Dwelling Allowance after just beginning formulation of the concept a year prior. Shumaker had submitted her language to summarize the Dwelling Allowance which was incorporated into the draft.

There was discussion on the various sections of the report, lots of other folks that presented information to the Committee that could be recognized. Barnes suggested acknowledging the received support from staff with a shout-out to the entire Private Forests Division, Fire Protection, and Resources Planning Divisions as well. Consideration then shifted to the presentation of the Report to the Board of Forestry in July. Materials have to be turned in by June 25th. Attached to the Report will be any Letters to the Board. Letter on the Siskiyou Protection Review, the Dwelling Allowance and a letter to the Governor’s Natural Resource Office regarding representation on the Wildfire Council. Also Barrett Brown’s appointment to the Committee filling Bonnie’s place as NW representative will be a Consent Agenda Item for the Board meeting. The House Bill 2469 legislative summary will be included as well. Abraham emphasized the importance of the Board having face-time with the Committee members, Barnes, Brown and Shibley had agreed to present at the meeting.

12. Good of the Order

Abraham added a couple of updates one that the ODF budget was scheduled for a hearing in NR Ways and Means Sub-committee then it will move to the full Ways and Means. He also mentioned an article from OPB relating to the Compliance Audit, he offered to send out the link for. And ODF’s budget now is scheduled for Monday. So far. It will get a hearing yet in the sub-Committee for Ways and Means. Natural Resource Sub-Committee. So, the OPB headline read, Who’s Following the Forest Practices Act? Oregon Can’t Say for Sure.

A Doodle poll will be sent to members to schedule a September conference call as the next meeting date. Have your calendars handy to discuss future dates and locations. Locations for out-of-town meetings were discussed, potentially a meeting in Grants Pass or Medford? And any efficiencies that could be gained with the RFPC scheduled meetings in the Areas. Abraham volunteered to do outreach to the Southwest Oregon District to assist with public attendance at the meeting.

Barnes adjourned the meeting.