

Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee Meeting

Department of Forestry
2600 State Street, Salem Oregon
Tillamook Room
February 15, 2019

Pursuant to notice made by press release to newspapers of general and local circulation throughout the state and distributed to persons on the mailing list of the committee and the members of the committee, a regular meeting of the Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee (FTLAC) was held at the Department of Forestry in Salem, Oregon.

Present Committee Members: John Sweet, Coos County Commissioner; Kathleen Sullivan, Clatsop County Commissioner; Will Tucker, Linn County Commissioner; David Yamamoto, Tillamook County Commissioner; Jim Bernard, Clackamas County Commissioner

Present Department Staff: Peter Daugherty, State Forester; Liz Dent, State Forests Division Chief; Andy White, NWOA Area Director; Justin Butteris, Operations and Policy Analyst; Mike Totey, West Oregon District Forester; Heidi Emch, Executive Support; Jaci Ladewig, Public Affairs Support; Mike Cafferata, Forest Gove District; Cindy Kolomechuk, State Forests Division; Dave Lorenz, Southern Oregon Area Director; Brian Pew, State Forest Division Deputy Chief; Tod Haren, Forest Resource Analyst; Shanon Loffelmacher, North Cascade District.

Present Others:

John Lindsey, Linn County Commissioner; Mark Rasmussen, Mason Bruce and Girard; Doug Cooper, Hampton Lumber; David Ivanoff, Hampton Lumber; Bob Van Dyk, Wild Salmon Center; Ray Jones, Stimson; Rex Storm, Associated Oregon Loggers

Chair Comments and Public Comment

Approval of October 26, 2018 minutes

Motion to approve: Commissioner Tucker

Second: Commissioner Sweet

All in Favor. Minutes approved.

Public comment:

There was no public comment.

Opening comment:

Chair David Yamamoto has distributed a copy of the class action lawsuit to the FTLAC members, along with other materials related to the Linn County Lawsuit, including the Department's letter to the FTLAC. Chair Yamamoto voiced concerns about the open conversations surrounding the FTLAC and the Department because of the Class Action Lawsuit. The specifications about what could be discussed and what should not be are available to view within the lawsuit. Chair Yamamoto stated, "We still have to be very careful in what we say, but if you read over the materials especially the Linn County complaint and the response from the Department you get an idea of the issues in the Linn County lawsuit and being to understand the areas where we really need to be careful about discussing." Chair Yamamoto provided a disclaimer that he will likely provide at the beginning of each meeting: "Due to the ongoing litigation with the Linn county class action lawsuit during the course of this meeting the Chair and/or Vice-Chair

might interject to identify statements that should not be construed as approval or direction and does not reflect the views of the Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee nor the Council of Forest Trust Land Counties, and shall be so identified in the minutes of this meeting.” Commissioner Kathleen Sullivan expressed concern that because Clatsop County is not part of the lawsuit she wants to ensure her voice, and others like hers, will still be heard. Chair Yamamoto commented that the disclaimer was to ensure that her points of view were not construed as representing FTLAC or CFTLC. Commissioner Sullivan stated that because of the lawsuit, it seems that the position of FTLAC is that of the lawsuit and suggested the duties of FTLAC should be separate from the lawsuit. Commissioner Kathleen Sullivan asked if the committee had voted on the lawsuit. Chair Yamamoto specified that the FTLAC should not be discussing the material that is a part of the lawsuit and for continued efforts to strive for more productive communication regarding material that can be openly discussed during the FTLAC meetings. Both members (David Yamamoto and Kathleen Sullivan) voiced respect to each other’s positions.

Forest Management Plan (FMP) Update

Liz Dent, Justin Butteris, Mike Totey and Brian Pew gave a presentation on the Northwest Oregon Forest Management Plan revision. The presentation was the same [presentation](#) to be presented to the Board of Forestry at its March 6th, 2019 meeting. Ms. Dent discussed the direction given from the Board of Forestry for the FMP, which included high-level barriers in the current plan and potential solutions to address conservation and financial benefits, an overall vision for a revised FMP, and presentation of some financial metrics.

Other issues discussed included the desire by some committee members to include a separate goal that states the FMP’s responsibility to the forest trust land counties; local governments’ struggle with PERS costs; and the definition of “best available science.”

Barriers and Solutions

Mike Totey and Justin Butteris explained barriers and solutions that will be presented to the Board of Forestry at the Meeting in March. Barriers presented included: climate change, lack of harvest goals, structure definitions, regional habitat goals, restoration, shifting mosaic, and lack of measurable outcomes.

Commissioner Sullivan asked if the Department has found more efficient ways to develop structure as the plan has been implemented. Totey responded that we’re able to create the structure, but it’s often cost-prohibitive.

Climate change was brought up to the committee by John Lindsey. He believes it to be a tool that is used against the government and there are not scientific facts to support the new emphasis. The emphasis is a financial burden to the committees’ initiatives. He believes the science should be emphasized and not something in statute ‘that can’t be proved’ as the problem.

Discrete structure definitions as a barrier was discussed in more detail by Mike Totey at the request of Chair Yamamoto. Harvest levels could go up, but the change also improves transparency. Liz Dent clarified the harvest decisions are made regarding the landscape and not just age of trees. Communicating the clear reflection of current forest conditions to the Board and associated committees is an important component of this change.

Commissioner Sullivan asked if the change from structure to seral stages was a different approach to taking inventory. Mike Totey responded that this would improve our ability to communicate the current status of the forest and habitat conditions.

Chair Yamamoto circled back to Barrier #2 with lack of clarity between competing objectives to develop habitat and harvest for revenue. Justin Butteris discussed the policy need to clearly articulate the objectives about harvest for economic purposes and those harvest for habitat conservation. The trade-off between these competing objectives is not clear in the current forest management plan.

State Forester Peter Daugherty said the harvest volume is not set by the Board of Forestry. The different reasons to harvest were discussed by Commissioner Sullivan and Liz Dent. Regional views and differences were discussed by Liz Dent.

Chair Yamamoto discussed proper forest management to reduce forest fires and support financial gains from timber harvests. Mike Totey specified the regional differences within Oregon. John Lindsey voiced concerns about Federal Government involvement with proper forest management. State Forester Peter Daugherty explained that the forest management plans are evolving and that active management allows for input, feedback, and more flexibility within each landscape. Commissioner Sullivan explains the regional difference in climate and historical fire impacts with active forest management are becoming more resilient regarding forest fires. Liz Dent also voiced concurring efforts from ODF to build the regional approach to active management.

Mike Totey gave local examples of structure goals, and management with those goals. He discussed surveys for listed species and how resident endangered species are identified. Impacts have to be addressed by adjusting our landscape design. Would be advantageous to have greater flexibility away from rigid landscape designs and in some districts taking advantage of neighboring lands that may have exceptional reserves. These components matter, we are addressing those in the plan now.

Commissioner Sullivan-Does that require an agreement with that neighboring land base.
Liz Dent-We do this already with our owl strategies.

Chair Yamamoto requested staff go back and explain in more detail some of the barriers. Barrier #5- Structure based management and restoration compatibility was discussed further by Mike Totey. Barrier #6- Chair Yamamoto feels was discussed in detail previously. For barrier #7 related to measurable outcomes- Chair Yamamoto requested further explanation. Liz Dent discussed the need for measurable outcomes to monitor if desired outcomes are being achieved and be able to adjust management in a more timely manner.

Vision

Liz Dent presented the vision as described in the staff report. She described the vision adds three key concepts in addition to the four that are in the current plan.

Chair Yamamoto explained complex early seral stands that are largely missing from Federal lands. Reforestation question from Mark Rasmussen asked to clarify site specific strategies and Liz Dent discusses the objectives with reforestation and herbicides and articulating the applications and long-term impacts. Liz Dent continued the discussion with Climate Change. At the BOF request, the reality of climate change issues are being articulated within the revised forest management plan.

State Forester Peter Daugherty said finding public revenue sources in State Forest have been hard to achieve. Commissioner Sullivan asked, how can we support recreational use of State Forest and will the

money have to come from outside sources? Liz Dent and Peter Daugherty agree that it would have to come from an outside source. ODF is looking for areas to reinvest and will be discussed more in the future. Developing partnerships is an emphasis within State Forests. Chair Yamamoto urged caution over the increased use of forest lands and how that can tax Law Enforcement. Commissioner Sullivan and Liz Dent both agree with Chair Yamamoto. John Lindsey points out the partnership of county and parks regarding recreation at local levels. This helps alleviate pressure on private land owners and the partnership with law enforcements is vital. The clean-up efforts are also a huge cost to the county. It is agreed that is much more expensive if State Forest does not provide recreation opportunities. The discussion continues with Liz Dent on Adaptive Management from Staff Report.

10 minute Break

Financial Metric Review: Brian Pew continues with Financial Metrics Provided.

Commissioner Sullivan asked 'Why are you anticipating a reduction in revenue?' Pew responded that we are seeing a decline in prices and harvest quantity due to changing market conditions.

Commissioner Tucker would like to see the breakdown with revenue objectives and pricing and volume. What would the sales projected to be? Brian Pew explained this presentation for the Board is more general and those details are covered in the End of Year Report. ODF controls how much timber can be auctioned and sold but it can be harvested within a 3-year window. These challenges contribute to the projected revenue.

Chair Yamamoto 'Are you comfortable with the staff levels?' Pew responded that we are. Mark Rasmussen asked what inflation rate the Department uses. State Forester Peter Daugherty responded, 'Expenditure projections are all considered with inflation, close to 4%. Pew mentioned that the Division is not fully implementing the plan. Commissioner Sullivan asked about the Department's policy option package to increase staffing for fire. State Forester Daugherty mentioned that the package did not go into the Governor's budget. Staffing and operations have levels of implementation in the FMP and we're implementing at level 2. We've worked to redesign the Workforce, reducing the number of employees, created more dispersed availability, and have increase the level of performance to gain efficiency. This can allow additional investment with revenue to ODF to be used on forest services. Adding \$1 million this last year in the forest investments.

Commissioner Sullivan stated the testimony should include support for including climate change in the plan.

Chair Yamamoto says he will be out of town for the Board meeting, Commissioner Sweet will provide committee testimony.

Commissioner Bernard is pleased with the direction of the division's work. Allowing flexibility within details.

Commissioner Tucker likes the metrics and measureable results that can be monitored.

Chair Yamamoto liked the idea of the change in direction to look at conservation in concert with production and harvest levels. There are still many details to be worked out.

John Lindsey talked about the emphasis of forest harvest volume and how the priority should remain just that.

Comments from State Forester

Was with Governor and she released an Executive Order for fire protection measures. The Governor has lead with her Executive Order. Wild fires have increased in recent years. Proactive forest treatment directly reflect the cost.

1. Funding for Wildfire Response (Protected, under-protected, and Unprotected)
2. Community effected by Wildfire and wildfire smoke
3. Prevention, Treatment, and Cost containment of Wildfires

Shared stewardship is the direction with Federal forest management and are asking state forest to step up and support those approaches. The emphasis remains with Fire Protection.

Biennial budget: No real increase or decrease requests to ODF budget.

John Lindsey: This is the stewardship program, we lose the Timber receipts.

Commissioner Sweet: three things to share:

1. Found that the sales on federal forest land that took place in the last few years have been harvested out and should be balanced. Indicating the inventory on Federal lands that are not available. Looking forward, that uncommitted volume should remain the same as State
2. Public Round Table to follow FTLAC at 1pm.
3. Compliment to Chair Yamamoto for doing a great job. Tim Josi expressed his willingness to support the committee.

Commissioner Sullivan is pleased with meeting and thanks Chair Yamamoto for the open communications.

Chair Yamamoto wants to discuss the resource assessment report, and would like the issues or question regarding the report to the next meeting. Chair Yamamoto currently serves on the State Forests Advisory Committee and asked FTLAC to consider Mary Faith Bell as his replacement and will send the committee her biography.

Meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m.