

Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee Meeting
Department of Forestry
September 17, 2021
9:30 am – 12:00 pm
Meeting Summary

Link to Audio Recording:

Meeting called to order at 9:37 a.m.

Present Committee Members:

Dave Yamamoto, Chair, Tillamook County Commissioner
John Sweet, Vice Chair, Coos County Commissioner
Courtney Bangs, Position 2, Clatsop County Commissioner
Margaret Magruder, Position 3, Columbia County Commissioner
Craig Pope, Position 4, Polk County Commissioner
Bob Main, Position 5, Coos County Commissioner

Absent:

Erin Skaar, Position 1, Tillamook County Commissioner

Present Others:

Will Tucker, Linn County Commissioner
Tootie Smith, Clackamas County Commissioner
Henry Heimuller, Columbia County Commissioner
Lianne Thompson, Clatsop County Commissioner
Mark Rasmussen, Mason, Bruce & Girard, Inc.
Mike Buffo, Mason, Bruce, & Girard, Inc.
Brett Brownscombe, Wild Salmon Center
John DiLorenzo, Attorney
Lauren Smith, AOC Staff
Gina Nikkel, Executive Director AOC
Megan McKibben, Staff Assistant, Washington County
Laura Wilkeson, Hampton Lumber
Jim Kelly, Board of Forestry Chair
Karla Chambers, Board of Forestry Member
Chandra Ferrari, Board of Forestry Member
Liz Dent, State Forests Division Chief
Mike Wilson, State Forests Acting Deputy Division Chief Policy
Ron Zilli, State Forests Deputy Division Chief Planning
Sarah Lathrop, Forest Management Plan Project Leader
Kevin Boyd, State Forests Asset Unit Manager
Mike Cafferata, Forest Gove District Forester
Kate Skinner, Tillamook District Forester
Ty Williams, NW Area District Operations Coordinator
Kyle Kaupp, Santiam Unit
Dan Goody, NW Oregon District Forester
Tod Haren, State Forests Resource Analyst
Andrew Yost, Forest Ecologist
Ole Buch, Assistant District Forester Western Lane
Jason Cox, Public Affairs

Leana Dickerson, Executive Support

Chair Comments and Public Comment

Comments from FTLAC Chair, Dave Yamamoto:

Chair Yamamoto provided introductions to the group and set the stage for the items on the agenda.

Public Comment:

Chair Yamamoto asked for any public comment; there was none.

Approval of May 28th FTLAC meeting minutes:

John Sweet motioned to approve the August 27th, 2021 FTLAC meeting minutes. Margaret Magruder seconded. All in favor. Motion passed to approve minutes as they are presented.

Consortium for Research on Renewable Industrial Materials (CORRIM)

Mike Buffo provided a presentation on CORRIM and stored carbon in building products. Explained that CORRIM is: “non-profit research corporation in 1996 by 15 research institutions.” CORRIM’s mission is “to conduct and manage life cycle assessment research on the environmental impacts of production, use, and disposal of forest products.”

Buffo provided research around the use of wood as a building product and its benefits over metal and concrete.

- Lianne Thompson noted the importance of the graph and data presented noting the powerful ability to store carbon in building products. Chair Yamamoto agreed, and pointed to the substitution of wood products with steel and concrete as a very valuable comparison.
- Some asked for Mike’s presentation to be provided to CFTLC; Lauren will email out to the group.
- John Sweet noted that several years ago another presenter showed this same type of data, and what we should do in the industry to mitigate the carbon issue, including building more with wood, which this presentation today reinforces. Sweet also noted that it is not only CLT buildings that have a benefit to building with lumber, but also normal 2x4 studs instead of metal or concrete provides the same benefits. Buffo agreed that it is not solely CLT wood that provides these benefits.
- Courtney Bangs asked for more information on the impacts of reductions of production, and how that may impact another industry (state, country, etc.). Would that weight/responsibility be pushed to another entity and possibly cause increase of deforestation in another area? Buffo noted that that challenge has been a problem in the past, called leakage, but it is a real possibility, and Mason, Bruce, and Girard can do more research in that area if needed.
- Mike Wilson asked about the silvicultural assumptions on the graph presented, and asked if there was a general scenario used for silvicultural prescriptions, specifically thinning entries. Buffo explained a thinning entry in the graph. Wilson also asked about the substitution mix to get the data – was it simply concrete, or a mix of concrete and steel. Buffo noted that this data presented only compared to concrete. There are other studies that compare with steel.
- Margaret Magruder noted that Columbia co. is 70% timber, but there’s another industry in her area of aggregate, which goes into concrete. Noted that substitutions are important to look at, but we do need to look at supporting all industries. Yamamoto noted that there would not be an entire replacement of steel and concrete, but this plan could show the benefit of substituting some of that, and that not cutting forests has real implications and that we need to build with wood products.
- Tootie Smith thanked Mike Buffo for the presentation, and wanted to be able to forward it on to builders in her county to show the value of wood in new construction.
- Lianne Thompson pointed out that there is already a competition with the aggregate industry, and that mass plywood panels are cheaper than CLT, and looking at the variety of wood, we are in a good place. Would like to see Oregon Housing and Community Services consider the impact of using wood in housing to reinvigorate local, rural economies.
- Chair Yamamoto pointed out that the conflagration of this issue is that the forest needs to be managed properly so that they do not create too much fuel for forest fires. Yamamoto asked Buffo if he could speak to the benefit of this work toward forest fires in this state. Buffo responded that the storing of carbon in the forest can cause issue for fire, insect damage, disease, etc. Using wood products helps store carbon in the forest, but also in materials that would be used for building.

- Chair Yamamoto stated that the work done by CORRIM really needs to be taken in by ODF as they are the state leader in climate change and forest management.

Draft FMP Goals

Liz Dent introduced the topic of the Draft FMP, and today's focus on the goals and the hope to hear from county partners on this draft. ODF will then take that information and feedback to the Board of Forestry in November. Dent clarified that this is not a decision point for the Board at that time, but a time to see the development of the project and weigh in on the progress.

Mike Wilson and Sarah Lathrop provided the timeline that has been updated in the last week and the status of the current work. Sarah Lathrop will provide the timeline PDF to the committee.

- Chair Yamamoto requested that the committee have the most updated timeline, as the copies they have are outdated. Noted also that the group was provided the draft goals document via email. Liz Dent noted that the information that comes to these meetings at FTLAC will be what goes to the Board and the intention is to always provide this information to FTLAC for feedback prior to it being presented to the Board of Forestry.
- Yamamoto asked the commissioners to note that there is much going on with the department right now, and to know that we are having many meetings to stay fully engaged in these issues with ODF. Dent expressed agreement and that the timeline really provides a full picture to the commissioners of what is ahead of the department. Dent also recognized that number of individual staff out on fire assignments and the reality of shifting the timeline for needed workload.

Mike Wilson provided the Draft FMP Goals, noting that it is not prioritized in any manner of importance.

- Chair Yamamoto reiterated that the draft goals are not prioritized. Asked the commissioners to weigh in on what are the most important and where clarity is needed.
- Bob Main noted that he needed to attend another meeting, and noted that his absence does not mean that he agrees or disagrees with anything discussed for the remainder of the duration of the meeting.
- Will Tucker would like to see contribution to Oregon's carbon stores within the state, not just the State Forests. Noted that there is not enough economic emphasis and would like to see forest management with respect to obligations to the counties economically.
- Liz Dent noted that if there is specific language that commissioners would like to incorporate, that will be very helpful to the department. Mike Wilson reiterated that the discussion is very valuable, any language, discussion, or clarification is helpful and valuable to this discussion.
- Chair Yamamoto expressed again that this is a discussion, and that none of this discussion is based on any decisions that will be made in these goals.
- Courtney Bangs noted that the HCP is based on environmental initiatives, and this FMP should be more related to economics of the counties. Bangs would like to see focus on the economic survival of the counties and the support of the businesses and social services. Bangs also noted the value of the incorporation of the invertebrate focus.
- John Sweet noted that the language around stored carbon is too narrow, and should include the impacts that forests can have beyond carbon stored in trees. Sweet noted that there are many goals pertaining to flora and fauna, and wondered how those applied to revenue, jobs, and the benefits of timber production on global warming and housing affordability, and would hope the focus could also be elaborated on for the benefits of timber production. Would like to see rural cultures included in the cultural section. Would like more specificity in the scenic element, and concern that it could imply just the look of clear cuts. In the climate change section, Sweet would like to see the minimization of global warming rather than lead by example language in that section. Concerned that this gives more focus on not harvesting than it does to harvesting for timber production.
- Lianne Thompson would like to see a focus on the release of carbon during wildfire, which could be stored in the forest or forest products. In the cultural section, Thompson would like to see class privilege included. The description could include the idea of the rural culture which has an appreciation and value of the forest beyond urban environmentalists. Liz Dent noted that the department is very focused on equity and inclusion and this is definitely something to consider in that lens.
- Courtney Bangs also noted that in the cultural element, to include social health that this provides in rural communities, and that the social, emotional, and cultural health of the community is tied to this industry in

those areas. If animal populations are so highlighted, the cultural and human populations should also have the same amount of weight and value.

- Courtney Bangs also wanted to look at the climate change section, and hopes that there is a way to state that as a state, we are not pushing our burden of production onto another sector, or area, state, country, and that we are not exasperating an issue in climate change elsewhere.
- Margaret Magruder weighed in on prioritization on the goals, and wondered if the department would be prioritizing the goals themselves. Liz Dent responded that they are not to be prioritized, but there has been feedback asking about priority and discomfort, so the intention is not to prioritize them at this point unless that is what the commissioners would like to see. They could be alphabetized to take the pressure off, or host this conversation to actually prioritize them based on the commissioner's desires. Magruder believes the most important portion is the timber production and healthy forests towards the greatest permanent value for the counties and economies. Would like to see timber production and forest health at the top of the list.
- Lianne Thompson summarized that we want to be good community members on a worldwide basis and recognizes the role of the forest economy and mental health in rural communities.
- Craig Pope endorses all concerns and statements of all commissioners so far. Pope noted that these goals have been developed with the counties not at the table. Concerned that the commissioners were not included from the beginning and feels as though this is a rapid fire engagement that may miss important elements. Concerned that even if the commissioners do make a prioritized list, it may not carry as much weight as it should. Sarah Lathrop apologized for the feeling of disengagement and reiterated that this is the first attempt at these goals and this engagement process is to get the feedback from the counties to include that input.
- Courtney Bangs reiterated what commissioner Pope noted, that there is a fear to not be at the table for the final decisions around the FMP. Hopes that the end goal of the FMP includes the counties' voices and their concerns are addressed. Bangs asked if the FMP and the HCP are to be made simultaneously and that the HCP is addressing a lot of the things in the FMP. Hopes that the FMP is based on economy, job, health, and wellbeing of community, bringing together a full picture with both documents. Mike Wilson confirmed that the two are hand in hand and that the HCP strategies will be incorporated as part of the FMP. Wilson reminded the group that ODF is interested in the language and how to put this document together and the helpfulness of that. Also, would entertain suggestions of new goals and consolidation of the goals that are on the table. Wanted to clarify again that when this goes to the BOF in November, it is not an approval process, but rather a touch point to show the current progress.
- Bangs asked when FTLAC will be able to see more depth in this plan. Mike Wilson noted that draft strategies are in the works right now, and they are still meant to be flexible.
- Liz Dent noted that she's taken notes about the conversation about forest health and timber, and asked if there was feedback about any other areas?
- Margaret Magruder noted that wildfire would be another, but that it fits in with the other two.
- Lianne Thompson reiterated that as the comments are integrated, it is the balancing of those items, and not playing off sides of one at the cost of the other.
- Chair Yamamoto also agreed with the focus on wildfire. Also made clear that anything that any commissioner has said during this discussion can not be considered an acknowledgement or decision based around the lawsuit Linn co. vs. board of forestry. We cannot and will not make comments that will put any spin on the Linn Co. suit that sits today.
- Liz Dent thanked the group for providing their perspectives and that the ODF team is very grateful for the feedback, and also provided a shout out to folks who have put their time out there on fire assignments.

FTLAC Upcoming Meetings and FMP Topics

- October 8, 9:30-12
- December 3, 2-4:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am

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