



# Committee for Family Forestlands Meeting Summary for March 23, 2023



*Under public notice made by news release with statewide distribution, a 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 March 23, 2023 as a virtual online meeting. Meeting recordings constitute the official record.*

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**CFF Committee members participating:**

Wendy Gerlach, Citizen-At-Large (Voting)  
Gary Jensen, Southern Oregon Landowner Rep. (Voting)  
Kate McMichael, Landowner-At-Large Rep. (Voting)  
Glenn Ahrens, OSU College of Forestry Ext. Ex-Officio  
Scott Hayes, NW Landowner Rep. (Voting)  
Kaola Swanson, Conservation Rep. (Voting)  
Julie Woodward, OFRI Ex-Officio  
S. Mark Vroman, Industry rep (Voting) Hampton Family Forests

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**ODF Staff attending:**

Heather Hendersen, Administrative Specialist  
Mike Kroon,-Deputy Chief – All Lands  
Tim Hoffman, Public Affairs  
Josh Hanson, Sfish Coordinator  
Amy Singh, Forest Legacy Program Manager  
Lori Bell, SFO-Assistance Programs Manager  
Ben Deumling, Board of Forestry Member  
Derrick Wheeler, Legislative Coordinator

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**Members not in attendance:**

Maurizio Valerio, EO Landowner Rep. (Voting)  
Amanda Sullivan-Astor, Forest Policy Manager AOL Ex-Officio  
Rick Zenn, OSWA Executive Administrator Ex-Officio

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**Guests/Public:**

Theresa Hausser  
Sandy Letzing, Forest Carbon Works  
Nicole Jacobson, Executive Director  
Craig Patterson  
Russ Glasscock, Eddyville Forest Owner

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## Chair Comments.

- Chair Gerlach calls the meeting to order.
- Asks for comments on the agenda/meeting minutes. Scott Hayes has requested corrections as well as the addition of time stamps.
- Recognized a quorum was established.
- Asks for public comment.
- Moved on to chair updates.

## Division update.

- Working on training for the PFA changes.
- Module B will be held twice in May.
- Tree School will be March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- Federal Forest Restoration update, proposal to start connecting to smaller communities.
- Seedlings are available for those interested.
- Climate Smart Award nominations to open in October 2023.
- Nicole Stapp will be assisting with the Disproportionate Impacts.
- Josh Barnard would like to chat with the committee and do a meet and greet.
- Introduction of Lori Bell as the new Small Forestland Owner Assistance Manager.

## Small Forestland Investment in Stream Habitat (SFISH) Update.

- PowerPoint Presentation provided.
- Would like to have a 5-member committee for the review team to consist of a staff member from ODFW, ODF, ODFWs Fish Passage Task Force, a CFF member, and a rep from the PFA coalition authors.

- Help identify any challenges for SFOs receiving these directly, how do we help with these challenges?
- Funded by general fund, up to 10 million a year.

### **legislature Update.**

- Briefing on what's ahead of us, what to expect.
- New governor's focus is housing, education, and homelessness.
- No major transformative bills like 762 this round.
- House Bill 3016 – The Trees Act. This will expand urban forestry programs throughout the state. This would assist in funding urban forestry with general funds.
- House Bill 2981 – Large Loan and Grant program for housing. This bill could be a big deal for mass timber.
- House Bill 2985 & 2986 – Prescribed Fire. These will build out the prescribed fire program in capacity and funding. Limits liability.
- House Bill 2813 – Safe Drinking Water for All. Not a regulatory bill, has to do with funding local projects, funding water safety.
- House Bill 2161 – Change in the stumpage value for Small Forestland Owner tax credits. Has moved through committee and is sitting in tax expenditures.
- House Bill 3590 – Oregon State University, DEQ, Oregon Department of Forestry will be investigating the possibility of turning slash piles into fuels.
- Senate Bill 530 – Natural and working lands bill. Fund carbon sequestration projects across Oregon to get more carbon storage in the state. Back at the drawing board, will see a new version on Monday March 27<sup>th</sup>. Would make it so you can fund through OWEB.
- Senate Bill 753 - Sudden Oak Death Program. Has moved through committee.
- Senate Bill 839 – Pilot Program to use air currents for biochar.
- Senate Bill 928 – Oregon Department of Forestry can put out fires on the landscape if unhappy with the federal action. In discussion on how this will work, how to proceed without overspending.
- Senate Bill 80 – Risk Mapping will become hazard mapping. Makes minor tweaks to language from Bill 762.
- Wendy – What is the scope of ODFs input into legislation?
  - The department doesn't generally advocate for bills but follows those impacting ODF and provides information to the legislature. If there isn't someone running point, you can get too many cooks in the kitchen. Derrick's point is to have only one cook in the kitchen to bring the information back to those that need it.

### **Forest Legacy Update.**

- PowerPoint Presentation Provided.
- Questions in Chat:
  - Craig Patterson -How much of conservation easements are in plantations and how many in intact forests? In acres.
  - Craig Patterson - How did you determine which acres in the Gilchrist Forest were put under a conservation easement? What criteria was used?
  - Craig Patterson – Can you clarify the key aspects/elements of conservation easements?
- Kaola Swanson – When talking about IRA keystones dollars, did you say that easements are not allowed under the IRA funding pot.
  - Only one limited is tribal partnership pot.
- Kaola Swanson – On the Hood River easement, are you still looking for match for that? What is the next step for that one?

- Wendy – Should we include legacy updates into the Committee For Family Forestlands annual report to the Board of Forestry?

### **Board of Forestry Update; Including Forestry Plan for Oregon.**

- Forestry Program for Oregon – working on a new name. Subcommittee is meeting monthly.
- The subcommittee will be bringing the draft to the board.
- Overview of the document the subcommittee has been working on.
- Questions in the chat:
  - Craig Patterson – Ben, can you identify any rural communities that are thriving today, relative to those social values?
  - Russ Glascock – 1) Reduced land values (due to forest accord) should result in blanket property tax reduction with no complicated formula to implement. 2) If trees are cut and not yet harvested as logs by January 1, can a small landowner get a 6 month waiver to finish? 3) Wildlife risk reduction for small landowners should be addressed. Move logs outside 110 feet?
  - Russ Glascock - Wildfire is a concern to me because I own along a railroad for two miles. A train derailed 15 years ago and started a fire on my forest and burnt 66 trees. ODF put out the fire. A primitive road access for fire vehicles is a priority for my forest before the forest accord takes place. Being able to clean up tree debris - from snow, wind, or flood - that would become a fire hazard along the tracks is important to me. I believe personal use taking of downed trees should be allowed after forest accord is implemented.
- State Forests Question from Craig Patterson – The Gilcrest forest has important lessons we need to learn from, talking with Stewardship Foresters since the beginning of it in 2011 over the last 5 years the revenues generated were 60 thousand tons of poles paid \$1 to \$5 a ton and 700 million board feet saw logs paid \$100 a ton. The average revenue has been about \$52 thousand dollars but the cost for fire support and maintenance has been in the neighborhood of \$320 thousand a year. That is an economic death spiral and no one can talk about when it might break even. I would submit this is true of industrial forestry everywhere, when do we learn those lessons? And when do we learn the lessons of the Gilcrest Forest which has nothing to do with economic development and is a problem with no solution in sight.
- Provided update on Private Forest Accord rules and trying to analyze the impacts.
- Kate McMichael– Clarifying question – Is there room for changes in the rules?
  - No there are not, there may be technical issues later on that could come due to unforeseen circumstances.

### **Discuss Procedure and Topics for Committee for Family Forestlands Annual Report to Board of Forestry.**

- Will be presented in September. Want a draft for June’s meeting, asking for a few volunteers to put together a report.
  - Wendy Gerlach volunteers.
  - Kate McMichael volunteers.
- Request for topics/themes
  - Kate McMichael – Keeping forests as forests. The micro landowners may fall through the cracks with getting notifications, etc.
  - Wendy Gerlach – Forestry Plan for Oregon starting out with values statement. Have individuals talk about how this impacts members of this group.
  - Gary Jensen – Address how helpful Oregon Department of Forestry has been with providing information.

- Wendy Gerlach – Resources that could be useful to support more technical assistance. Could make this more specific to the changes coming from the PFA.
- Gary Jensen – How are the tax credits/purchases going to apply to smaller landowners?
- Mike Kroon – Adding in the fact Ben Deumling has been at the meetings with consistent updates.
- Wendy Gerlach – Include about the website and how that was sent out for testing within the Committee for Family Forestlands meeting.
- Theresa Hausser – Concern on how to reach smaller landowners who are not already plugged into organizations. Bring up to the BOF, is there a way that higher up people could facilitate (for example: County Tax Offices) Informing forest landowners that these things are happening and these are resources they could take advantage of?
- Wendy Gerlach – Interagency action, not totally relevant to this committee – Extension is major.
- Wendy Gerlach – Amanda unable to attend but would mention workforce and labor issues.
- Kaola Swanson – Information goes out proactively from the Tax Offices could be great.
- Kaola Swanson – Hazard mapping.
- Gary Jensen– Include future hazards with this hazard mapping?
- Kate McMichael – Continued assistance with those impacted by fire. Discussion on how this can be done and how it is still needed years later.
- Kate McMichael – Seedling update.
  - Challenges, complements, etc.
- Gary Jensen – Support for OFRI?
- Wendy Gerlach – Reach out to Amy Singh to add on to the report from the Legacy Workgroup, provide them a moment to say something.
- Wendy Gerlach – For the Accord provide bullet points on things that consistently come up.
- Kate McMichael – Discussion on the Small Forest Land office on what it can offer and will not offer. Set expectations. Where can we be helpful in bridging the gaps?
- Wendy Gerlach volunteers to provide a first draft to be reviewed between the June meeting. Will send out meeting for more volunteers to review.
- Have printed copies of draft report for everyone to review at the June meeting.

#### **Committee for Family Forestlands Members and Succession.**

- Ask Mark Vroman for recommendations.
- Ask Starker, Loan Rock, Roseburg Forest Products, Collins, Green Diamond
- Try to have on the June Board of Forestry agenda.

#### **Roundtable.**

- Wendy Gerlach on behalf of Julie Woodward – Tree School reminder along with Train the Trainer. Illustrated Manual for Oregon Department of Forestry is ongoing and will continue to update.
- Kate McMichael – A woodland owner who doesn't know where they fit, how do they know what applies and what does not?
- Tim Hoffman – There was a suggestion to do a flow chart to assist for landowners to know where they land.
- Kaola Swanson – Maybe do a quiz?
- Wendy Gerlach – Resources could maybe go closer to the top vs. the bottom.
- Forestry Program for Oregon Subcommittee web address: [Oregon Department of Forestry : Forestry Program for Oregon Subcommittee : Board & committees : State of Oregon](#)
- Reminder to send volunteers for Sfish to Heather Hendersen.
- Heather Hendersen will send out an updated Organization Chart.

- Wendy Gerlach will send out the Draft for the Annual Report.

[Note: staff checked options for developing timestamps to link the summary to the recorded meeting. Unfortunately, this did not turn out to be feasible due to the amount of staff time that would be required to do so. We are happy to discuss this and perhaps other solutions at our next meeting.]