

**State Forest Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Summary<sup>1</sup>  
Forest Grove Community Auditorium  
October 28, 2011

Committee Members in Attendance: Ed Kamholz (Chair), Tom Johnston, Denise Lofman, Lisa Phipps, Jason Bernards, Dave Kunert, Leslie Shaw, Barrett Brown, Fred MacGregor, Rex Storm, Commissioner Patricia Roberts, Mike Cafferata (Ex-Officio), Andy White (Ex-Officio), and April Reece (Committee Administration)

Others in Attendance: Doug Decker, Mike Bordelon, Don Everingham, Ron Zilli, Tom Savage, Dan Goody, Wayne Auble, Dave Lorenz, and Daren Cone

Housekeeping – Ed Kamholz

- Ed Kamholz, Mike Bordelon, Mike Cafferata and Andy White made a presentation to FTLAC at their meeting last week requesting them to participate with the State Forests Advisory Committee. The invitation was accepted. Commissioner Tim Josi, Tillamook County, will be the regular delegate from the county. Commissioner Patricia Roberts, Clatsop County, is sitting in for him today.
- Ed Kamholz and Doug Decker, on behalf of SFAC, presented Mike Bordelon with a plaque in appreciation for his work and contribution to the committee for the past ten years. Mike promoted in September as the State Forests Division Chief. Nancy Hirsch, the previous State Forests Division Chief is now the Protection Division Chief. Paul Bell, previously the Protection Division Chief, is now the Deputy State Forester. In the interim, Andy White, Forest Grove District Forester is acting in the role as the NW Oregon Area Director and representative on SFAC. An additional change in leadership also includes Peter Daugherty; previously the Private Forests Deputy Division Chief is now the Private Forests Division Chief.
- There is a Board of Forestry meeting in Forest Grove next Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. ODF will present the final Elliot State Forest Management Plan for review and discussion and request the Board's adoption of the plan as administrative rule. Governor Kitzhaber will present the Board with vision and guidance regarding the management of state-owned forestlands, as well as his thoughts on public forests overall and critical issues facing forest management today. Mike Bordelon and Mike Cafferata will present initial key objectives for Board consideration and discuss planning for the 2012 -2013 State Forests work plan with possible decisions.
- Questions regarding BOF meeting agenda items:
  - Jason Bernards asked if there is an effort to pick up any ONC lands by ODF. Doug answered that yes there is a significant effort.

Approval of Minutes – Ed Kamholz

- Motion to approve and accept the meeting summary from 6/29/11 passed.

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<sup>1</sup> Meeting summary reflects key issues, discussions and decisions, not verbatim language.

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SFAC Charter Revision/Review – Andy White

- Changes reflected in the charter include the change in membership term limits from 2 to 3 years and recognition of the “County Interest” membership by FTLAC. Motion to approve the changes passed.

Membership Recruitment – Andy White

- We will be filling two vacancies this fall/spring. One vacancy for “non-affiliated” and another for “watershed” representation. The vacancies were created by the resignations of Carolyn Eady, Gail Well and Bud Henderson. There was an additional recreation representative previously; this recruitment will put the committee back to the appropriate membership.
- New member orientation will be held next year.
- Motion to approve the changes passed.

Public Comment

None

2011 AOP Accomplishment Reports – Don Everingham

- The purpose of this report is to compare operations described in the 2011 AOP to the resulting timber sale contracts and other annual accomplishments.
- The report summarizes harvesting, roads, young stand management, and recreation activities as listed in the AOP Summary Tables.
- The agency is making an effort to compile all accomplishment reporting in one place.
- Harvests are summarized by volume, net value and planned vs. contract acres.
- NWOA came very close to meeting their target for 2011 harvest volume. Differences in volume resulted from over or under estimating stand volume during the planning phase, changing silviculture prescriptions and adjusting timber sale boundaries.
- There have been 52 timber sales planned and submitted to Salem. So far, 46 of the 52 timber sales have been auctioned/sold resulting in 88% of estimated volume. The remaining sales have either recently been submitted or are on hold awaiting T&E survey information.
- The summary shows a conservative estimate for revenues. Currently the 46 sales net dollars estimate 123% predicted in the AOP. When timber sales are auctioned, 10% is received and the remainder is collected after their harvest (2-3 years).
- AOP predictions are based on current market at the time of the plan. As the market improves or declines, that will reflect in the actual revenue received.
- Lisa Phipps asked what happens when unexpected events such as timber prices falling so much they can’t cover the cost to operate or pay the balance, a slide occurs in the sale area, etc. Wayne Auble said they have the ability for several options including modification, adjustment, suspending the sale, etc. The one caveat is that it can’t be as a result of something the purchaser has done to cause the issue.
- In recent years there have been a minimal number of sales/harvests have been delayed and/or gone into default due to the market.
- Planned vs. contract acres for NWOA are close to being within target.

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- Planned vs. contract acres can sometimes fluctuate due to change in prescription, recommendations for public safety (consultation and recommendation from ODF geotechnical specialist).
- Tillamook's submitted sales had a reduction in acreage from 3 sales for these reasons:
  - Areas within the timber sales were identified during sale preparation that would not benefit from or support a thinning prescription. The prescription was then modified or these areas were excluded from the timber sale.
  - After consultation with an ODF geotechnical specialist during sale preparation, acreage was reduced due to public safety rules within the forest practices act.
- Lisa Phipps pointed out there is an error in the roads chart under submitted timber sales column labeled "% of AOP". The number is actually higher (171%) than what is shown (129%). Don will correct it and re-send it to the committee via email.
- Roads improvement miles submitted in timber sale contracts were significantly above what was planned. Timber sale contract project work was also 129% about what was planned in the AOP. Reasons for this:
  - Districts have tried to minimize the amount of project work included in the AOP's over the last two years, reducing the cost to the FDF fund, and ensuring timber sales are viable in a down market.
  - ODF could only defer the investment in our infrastructure for so long before we start to see road related issues. Roads are getting all types of use in the forest, and maintenance and improvements were needed by the time the timber sale was being put together. These road improvement projects were added to ensure we are meeting all required standards.
  - Timber sales are more marketable if they provide an opportunity to work in the winter. Districts look for a balance of minimizing costs but also providing wet weather access across an AOP. This is managed at the District level.
- Projects costs as a percent of Gross Value are at 8%.
- Stream enhancement type projects are tracked under project work and not tracked separately which SFAC would like to see.
- Young stand management reporting is estimated on which timber sales are going to be harvested and which ones aren't. The majority of the reporting is based on what has already been accomplished.
- Initial planting makes up the largest "cost category" of young stand management. NWOA total acres that received their initial planting was 587,919 acres.
- The accomplishment summary is for work done in 2011 and units that were planted aren't necessarily from the 2011 AOP, they can be from 2008-2010.
- The districts all received ARRA dollars to accomplish invasive species and PCT work. This became priority work due to the dollars being available. Scotch Broom and Knotweed were treated along roads, trail and within sale units. Additional accomplishments include roadside brushing, spraying and PCT of over 1400 acres on the Tillamook and Forest Grove districts alone.
- Due to a below-average fire season, South Fork crews were available to complete projects that might not get completed in a normal year.

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- Recreation project work was based on the Interim Recreation Guidance which states we will maintain the current infrastructure and not enter into new projects.
- Summary of volunteer hours for recreation projects includes camp hosts, trail volunteers, work parties, and adopt-a-trail program. Very large numbers across NWOA. 2011 had a busy summer recreation season.
- Recreation highlights from 2011 include:
  - Clatsop State Forest – 4 miles of new trail construction was completed in association with the Nicolai Mountain OHV project funded by multiple grants to develop and improve the area. There were 3 OHV bridges constructed over fish streams. Designated 5 additional miles of OHV trails open to motorcycles, quads and side-by-side vehicles.
  - Developed facility improvements
    - Beaver Eddy Campground
  - Dispersed and designated recreation sites
    - Northrup Creek Horse Camp & Trail
    - Nicolai Mountain OHV Area
  - Tillamook State Forest - Forest Grove District obtained multiple grants to improve the Elliot Creek and Military Creek Trail bridges which resulted in the installation of 108 foot OHV bridge on the Elliot Creek Trail, removal of 3 OHV bridges down near riparian areas, and relocating one of them to the Military Creek Trail. Not all of the work has been completed yet.
  - FEMA funds to restore and re-route a portion of the Gales Creek Trail that's been closed since 2008.
- Barrett would like to see the reporting of recreation work taken to the next level, similar to the format of the other categories. He would also like to see previous year's so that spikes/dips can be tracked and accounted for.
- Fred MacGregor would like to see a dollar value associated with the volunteer hours. He said there is a federal rate chart that can be used. Fred will send the link via email. He would also like to see a summary of the inmate hours invested. He thinks the table is an under-estimate of dollars invested. Wayne said there is data for those statistics since ODF has to track for grants.
- Rex thinks this report is of value for the committee and would like to see accomplishments in the future that include ecosystem and habitat structural accomplishments.
- Commissioner Roberts said that translates into economic data and is important for the agency to report on. She would like a link provided to what the agency is spending for transparency purposes.
- Additional input is welcome. Questions or comments can be submitted to Don via email: [deveringham@odf.state.or.us](mailto:deveringham@odf.state.or.us)

### Implementation Planning Process – Mike Cafferata & Andy White

North Cascade, West Oregon and Tillamook

Each district has varying landscapes and challenges that go along with them. The goal is to complete the IP's for West Oregon and North Cascade Districts by June 2012. Andy is currently working with ODFW to develop a list for the SOC (species of concern). This will be discussed further at the spring SFAC meeting. The IP's will be presented to this group then for review and input.

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Lisa Phillips commented that it seems like in Tillamook it would be easy to push through in an 8-month period and asked if these other areas had less public interest. Andy said less so than the north coast districts. They are smaller districts and are more scattered in their ownership.

The Tillamook District is currently revising their IP to align with BOF direction. It is planned to be completed in alignment with timing for the FY14 AOP (July 1, 2013).

#### Tillamook Available Acres Process – Dan Goody

##### Data Need Project Update

- The district developed new GIS based terrain modeling tools with LiDAR data to specifically identify and map portions of the forest previously unaccounted for in past planning efforts.
- Available Acres – landslide and public safety, potential debris flow, inner gorges
- Landslide and Public Safety is a Forest Practices Administration rule.
- Initial assessment completed by the previous NWOA Geotechnical Specialist, Jason Hinkle. Timber sales planned in the Hwy 6 & 101 basin areas were evaluated for land slide hazards. Ongoing ground truthing and updating is occurring.
- Recent inventory of potential debris flow tracks identified for Type N streams that reach Type F streams in HLHL areas has increased since the 2009 inventory.
- Inventory – there were over 325 stands inventoried since last model
  - To date – 19% of stands and 35% of acres
- Inner gorges were not previously mapped or modeled. Many were found during layout of harvest operations. There was a significant increase in acreage affected related to inner gorges.
- Transportation Planning
- Future work
  - Improvement to imputation/yield tables including plantation prescription
  - Improvement of existing SLI using additional stand measurements
  - SNC plot review
  - Model build
- There's approximately 40,000 acres that were not previously inventoried
  - Acreage outputs are draft numbers; subject to change
  - Under review by ODF; may result in third party review
  - Impacts to model results is unknown

Dave would like to see a comparison between forest management acres and forest practices acres affected.

Rex and others were involved in some of these meetings and feel confident with the data that has been presented.

Tom Johnston asked if ODF's plan will affect ODOT's road management/planning. Essentially no, if ODOT plans to widen or move a road, they have geotechnical specialists that assess slope stability etc.

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Fred MacGregor asked if this tool that is being developed will be used by other districts. Dan answered that ultimately the process will be available.

ODF is re-engaging with TRAC to provide input for their IP. They are working with both the Forest Grove and Astoria Districts.

#### Policy Update – Mike Cafferata

##### Review of Phase-In Approach

- Forest Grove and Astoria IP's
  - In July Doug Decker approved both plans with a phase-in approach over a ten year period.
  - The level of support for this plan is not where the agency would like. Need to do:
    - Clarification of what to expect
    - Affirm greatest permanent value
  - Board Work Plans – ODF will make recommendations.
  - Districts will begin implementing the plans.
  - Expecting a similar process for the remaining districts in NWOA

##### Owl Survey Policy Update

- Owl survey policies originated in 1992.
- Spotted owls are less willing to respond during surveys than Bard owls.
- New survey protocol started to develop in 2010
  - Increases the number of site visits from 3 to 6 in the first year and 6 visits the second year, which doubles the cost.
  - There use to be a one year survey option; that has been removed as an option.
  - Previously if you surveyed for 3 years with no response you could consider the site vacated; removed from protocol.
- There is a hybrid, Sbard, owl that has been discovered.

##### State Land Board Meeting

- Meeting was two weeks ago
- Approx 60-70 protestors were present; had to be removed from proceedings
- Elliot State Forest Management Plan was approved at this meeting
  - Develop research and monitoring plan (10 year plan); implement
  - Will require an annual review
  - Asked to continue to seek opportunities with the carbon market
  - Asked to continue adopting a habitat and conservation plan

##### Upcoming BOF Meeting

- Seven agenda items
  - State Forests Fiscal Report
    - Revenue forecast & expenditures

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- Elliot State Forest Rulemaking
- Ripstream Monitoring & Stream Temperature Project
- Annual Research & Monitoring Report
- Implementation Monitoring
- BOF Work Plan
- Gales Creek Restoration Project
  - Completed
  - Used as a pilot project for ecosystem services credits
- Governor Kitzhaber will be attending
- Will be held on November 3<sup>rd</sup> in Forest Grove
- Predict there will be protestors

Miami Stream Enhancement Project Presentation – Denise Lofman

- On-going planning since 2008
- Partnership between Tillamook Bay Watershed, ODFW and ODF.
- Funded through OWEB, USFWS, with in-kind work from ODFW and ODF.
- 2005 Watershed Assessment recommended decommissioning the Buehner Creek Road and the Miami River Road between the South Fork confluence and the North Fork crossing
- Complimentary work in the Miami basin
  - Tillamook Estuaries Partnership project at the mouth of Miami River
  - EcoTrust work along Waldron Creek
- Aligns with Forest Management Plan
- Two bridges originally built in the 60's were removed
- Riprap removed along the road
  - Causing sedimentation and erosion along banks
- Culverts removed
- Ripped & seeded road surface; planted native plants
- In-stream log placement of 120 logs
  - ODFW provided oversight
  - Provided through log salvage grant & donated logs from Tillamook County and ODF lands
- Article in Tillamook's Headlight Herald and Oregonian
- Link to article in Oregonian - [http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2011/09/legacy\\_of\\_logging\\_roads\\_bring.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2011/09/legacy_of_logging_roads_bring.html)
- Shared with all Oregon Agency heads by DAS
- Concerns from public
  - Road closures (areas still had walk-in access)
  - Log placement and expected movement in winter high flows
- Next steps:
  - Improve communication on road closures – highlight AOP; sharing information at meetings and announcements in newspaper for large projects
  - Projects are discussed in Annual Operations and Watershed Assessments – highlight this more with the public

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- Buehner Creek Road will only be closed temporarily.
  - Tillamook will be doing some repairs and maintaining the road.
- Continued work on log placement and transportation planning as aligned with FMP on the forest.

Dave Kunert asked if there was any record of fish counts from the 90's to current where this work was done. Denise said they have seen a 35% increase in juveniles.

#### Looking Ahead – Mike Cafferata & Mike Bordelon

##### Revenue Forecast/FDF Balance

- Twice a year ODF completes a revenue forecast.
- Used to inform:
  - Counties what sort of revenues to expect
  - Division of State Lands estimate of revenues coming in from CSL
  - Agency to predict how much money is in the reserve fund (FDF fund) for operating costs
- After the initial decline in timber revenue in '09-'10 the forecast predicted the FDF fund essentially going broke in 2012. Reductions were made to try to prevent this from happening.
- Saved approx \$10 million each year
- The current forecast has improved slightly. Future revenue is calculated using current stumpage values and global housing start data.
- Plans for resolving this issue short term & long term:
  - Working to formalize a plan to remain solvent and options to diversify revenue streams
  - Developing a committee to produce recommendations
  - Dan Goody, Tillamook District Forester, will be the Chairperson
  - Timeline for the group's work is one year.
- Adaptations to current processes will be examined.
- Opportunities for stakeholders to help
  - A stakeholder review group will also be included
    - Ed Kamholz will be serving on this committee, representing SFAC

Commissioner Roberts asked why other groups couldn't provide research and monitoring data to the agency so efforts aren't duplicated. Mike Bordelon said he thinks it is something that needs to be considered by the committee.

##### Conservation Areas

"Conservation Areas" have been an ongoing topic for state forests. The latest discussions date back to the summer of 2010 and continued in the 2011 legislative session. The April 2011 BOF meeting included an item regarding conservation areas. The Board concluded the discussion by directing ODF to recommend a pathway for BOF work on the topic of conservation areas.

In the context of Board direction, ODF is doing preliminary work within the existing statutory and policy framework. Part of this work is to understand the different definitions of the term conservation areas.

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This will help establish a common frame of reference and also better define the current benefits provided by this forest management plan.

The three possible definitions are:

*Definition #1:*

Conservation areas are areas managed principally to maintain and develop ecological values through passive management. Timber harvest is not allowed. These are areas with generally no management – now and into the future. Limited recreation that maintains these values.

*Definition #2:*

Definition #1 is broadened to include areas managed principally to maintain and develop ecological values. Activities that promote conservation values/goals (including timber harvest that promotes those values) are allowed until some DFC is met, then no management except management that is necessary to maintain that condition.

*Definition #3:*

Definition #2 is broadened to include areas managed principally to maintain and develop ecological values. Activities that promote conservation values/goals (including timber harvest that promotes those values) are allowed until some DFC is met, then the quantities of those areas are maintained on the landscape, but movement is possible in order to enhance other values.

Discussion regarding these definitions included input and comments from SFAC members summarized below:

- In #1 timber harvest is not allowed, that's inconsistent with the intent of the original land transfer from the county to the state to manage. We've heard 4 times today that definition of greatest permanent value is to actively manage, so "no harvest" becomes a burden if you're not going to manage it vs. timber value. Based on the presentation Mike Bordelon just gave about ODF's FDF going broke, that's removing even more land out of production. When you also factor in the additional acres that were removed from Tillamook's District based on recent research and the continued onslaught from environmental and threatened/endangered species requirements, it doesn't seem like a very viable option. Dave thinks #3 makes the most sense.
- Cautioned the use of the word "conservation" if #1 is used.
- The challenges that all of these agencies face is creating new definitions for the same words. #2 would probably achieve the most "buy in".
- Could argue #1 applies to a clear cut.
- #1 could also be interpreted as "preserve"
- Suggest to define "area"
- What is the conservation value we're trying to get to? What is the purpose?
- #3 has value from a restoration aspect but needs more specificity; provides flexibility
- May want to consider using a word other than "conservation".

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Andy asked “How would this conversation change if the question asked was “What are the focus areas that we need out there on the landscape to maintain those values out there that different groups/entities like to see maintained on the landscape?” Fred said “Let’s define the function of this piece of land and then back-out what the management should be.” Denise said a broader education of stakeholders would solve this issue of defining “conservation area” although that presents its own set of challenges.

Mike Cafferata will take these discussion points and present them back to the Board.

#### SFAC Work Plan – Andy White & Mike Cafferata

- Charter says that the committee will have a work plan; would it add value?
- Perhaps it encompasses a framework/timeline for recurring events
  - i.e. October meeting – accomplishment reporting
  - IP Revisions
- Barrett said work plans have previously been developed and included the items Andy discussed
  - Not used/referenced very often
- Dave commented that the only consistent items have been the June Tour/Field Trip and AOP’s
- Barrett suggested it be used as an internal tool for ODF
- One will be developed by Mike, Andy and Don and submitted to the members for review.

#### Close Out – Andy White

- Next meeting will be in March/April and April will solicit dates via a “Doodle” poll to members.
- Agenda items to include:
  - IP updates
  - What data do we have that shows the benefits from collaborative efforts?
  - Rex suggested “How is the State Forest managing implementation of the FMP relative to the litigation going on in some districts? “
  - Tom suggested a topic of unfunded mandates. i.e. Are the roads maintained by ODF subject to DEQ regulation? What is that costing the agency? Is it another unfunded mandate? Dan said no, it’s part of the Private Forests program to meet those standards.
- Action items:
  - Save the Date - February
    - Jason Bernards and Tom Johnston have not had a formal orientation to SFAC.
    - Will schedule & hold one in February; not exclusive to new members, all members will be invited and encouraged to participate
  - Additions to the accomplishment report – Don Everingham
    - Address some formulas in existing tables
    - Better ways to characterize impact deferral of road maintenance
    - Capture ecosystem
  - Andy asked Lisa to present at the next meeting
    - Data from restoration efforts

## SFAC Meeting Summary

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Lisa expressed how pleased she is that FTLAC has joined SFAC. Barrett seconded those thoughts. Tom, this being his first meeting, stated he was impressed with the meeting structure.

Adjourn