

Summary: SW RFPC Meeting on October 21, 2021



Pursuant to public notice made by news release with statewide distribution, a committee meeting of the Southwest Oregon Regional Forest Practice Committees [an advisory body to the Oregon Board of Forestry with authority established in Oregon Revised Statute 527.650] was held virtually on May 25, 2021.

<i>SWRFPC members present:</i>	<i>Not present:</i>
Dana Kjos, Roseburg Forest Products, Committee Chair Darin McMichael, Hancock Jay Christensen, Weyerhaeuser Eric Farm, Farm Unlimited Garrett Kliner, Stuntzner Mikaela Gosney, Chandra Forest Management Scott Nichols, forestry consultant Eric Culley, Campbell Global	Jay Christensen, Weyerhaeuser Chris Arnold, Lone Rock Timber Dan Fugate, Retired
<i>ODF Staff:</i>	<i>Guests:</i>
Nick Hennemann, Interim Deputy Division Chief/Committee Secretary Greg Wagenblast, Policy & Ops Specialist Joe Touchstone, Project Manager Adam Coble, Forest Health & Monitoring Manager Scott Swearingen, Field Support Unit Manager Thomas Whittington, Water Quality Specialist Keith Baldwin, Forest Practices Field Coordinator Susan Muniz, Admin Support Jennifer Ward, Stewardship Forester Gary Mendenhall, Stewardship Forester Keith Waldron, Stewardship Forester Jay Morey, Stewardship Forester Jon Laine, Stewardship Forester Paul Clements, Training & Monitoring Coordinator	Ryan Greco

Chair updates. Chair Dana Kjos opened the meeting and introduced the two new committee members, Eric Culley, Campbell Global and Scott Nichols, forestry consultant.

Minutes. Minutes from the May 2021 were approved after a Motion by Darin McMichael and seconded by Eric Farm.

Private Forests Division update. Nick Hennemann, interim Deputy Division Chief, provided updates on the State Forester hiring process, new staff and roles within the Division, Agency public access re-opening date of January 1, staff vaccination mandates, Board of Forestry work planning, and the SB 1602 forest accord.

Operator of the Year. Greg Wagenblast explained the Operator of the Year Recognition Program and screening process. The Committee reviewed the two nominations for Operator of the Year and selected Plickat Logging, Inc. for 2021 Operator of the year, and named Blaylock, Inc. the 2021 Western Lane District Merit award recipient.

ODFW-ODF MOA on fish passage. Thomas Whittington, water quality specialist, provided an update about the Memorandum of Agreement covering fish passage on non-federal forestlands affirming ODF serving as the primary agency responsible for fish passage on non-federal forestlands. He explained that staff are updating Tech Note #4 based on feedback from ODFW and stakeholders. ODF will continue administering the fish passage rules on non-federal forestlands, per the MOA. ODFW is currently revising their fish passage rules and expects the rules to be sent to the Commission in mid-2022 for consideration. The agency directors will sign the final ODFW-ODF MOA for fish passage

after ensuring that any drafted revised ODFW rule don't affect the MOA language. Tech Note #4 will be in place early 2022. Committee members can send comments about Tech Note #4 to Thomas at thomas.whittington@oregon.gov He has set a deadline for that feedback by November 12th. Expect training on the updated Tech Note #4 the first half of 2022.

Implementation Study update. Adam Coble, Monitoring and Forest Health Manager, provided an update on the Implementation Study. Adam provided some history on the previous 2013 & 2017 Implementation Studies, criticisms they've received, and subsequent Mount Hood Environmental review and assessment of the previous studies. MHE found the same issues as were in the initial critiques. MHE recommends against re-analysis of the 2013-2017 studies. MHE gave 8 solutions they recommended using in future implementation studies to meet the goals and needs of the agency and study's purpose. The Monitoring Program will present information to the Board of Forestry at their November meeting, including a presentation by MHE. Currently, the program drafted a new field protocol with the MHE recommendations and began a pilot study that focuses on timeliness of reforestation, stocking levels, and acceptability of species on clear-cut overstory operations on private industrial lands. They will report out on that pilot study in 2022. A Committee member asked about the issue of non-response to permission requests which was seen as leading to potential bias in the analysis. Coble noted that the highest non-response rate is among non-industrial small landowners and that the response rate and compliance rates were the highest with industrial landowners. Eric Farm suggested checking via satellite images to see if reforestation has been done on the smaller parcels. Coble noted that the resolution available with aerial imagery was not clear enough to determine small seedling numbers and health but could be possible for larger features.

SB 1602 E-Notification. Joe Touchstone, SB 1602 project manager, provided an update on the changes to the FERNS electronic notification system to meet the requirements of SB 1602 for helicopter spray operations. That required establishment of a Registrant role to facilitate neighborly communication between notifiers and qualifying landowners to be informed of spray operations. Touchstone explained the difference between Registrants and Subscribers, notification changes when notifying for helicopter spray operations and FERNS system updates to make it mobile friendly for all notifications. Training on the new functionality that is set for November 2-4, 2021.

Closing/Adjourn. Hennemann suggested postponing the scheduling of the next meeting until more information is available on the BOF work plan and Private Forests Accord. All agreed. The meeting was adjourned.