

Summary: NW RFPC Meeting on October 28, 2021

Pursuant to public notice made by news release with statewide distribution, a committee meeting of the Northwest 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 28, 2021. Recording of the meeting will be considered the official record.



<i>NWRFPC members present:</i>	<i>Not present:</i>
Mike Barnes, Chair Randy Silbernagel, Industry, retired Scott Gray, Stimson Lumber Candace Bonner, Landowner Jon Stewart, Raincloud Tree Farm Wade Stringham, Campbell Global	Tally Patton, Industry, retired Steve McNulty, Weyerhaeuser Jim Hunt, The Campbell Group Wendell Locke, retired
<i>ODF Staff:</i>	<i>Guests/Public:</i>
Nick Hennemann, Interim Deputy Division Chief/Committee Secretary Greg Wagenblast, Policy & Ops Specialist Adam Coble, Forest Health & Monitoring Manager Scott Swearingen, Field Support Unit Manager Thomas Whittington, Water Quality Specialist Susan Muniz, Admin Support Andy White, NWOA Area Director Ashley Lertora, Stewardship Forester Bryce Rodgers, Stewardship Forester Brian Dally, Stewardship Forester Robert Lefebvre, Stewardship Forester Jim Gersbach, Public Affairs Tim Meehan, Stewardship Forester Andrew Bird, Stewardship Forester	Stephen Fitzgerald, OSU Brent Klumph, OSU Seth Barnes, OFIC Alex Davis, Pacific Forest Contractors Rebecca McCoun, Santiam Watershed Theodore Mundy Sue Craig Tiffany Monroe Katie Murray Gail Henrikson Julie Degraw

Chair opened the meeting. Chair Barnes opened the meeting and called right away for a Motion to Approve the Minutes from the last meeting. Bonner so Moved, and Gray seconded that motion. All were in favor. Minutes were approved. Note was made that in the future the recordings will be the official record and only meeting summaries would be provided.

Operator of the Year Selection. The formal agenda began with the presentation of the nominees for Operator of the Year to ensure there was a quorum of voting members present. Greg Wagenblast explained the Operator of the Year Recognition Program and screening process. Nominees for the NW Oregon Area were:

- Pacific Forest Contractors, LLC., Alex Davis, Eagle Creek, Oregon – Nominated by Wade Stringham
- Marshall Logging, LLC, Drew Marshall, Tillamook, Oregon – Nominated by Stephen Fitzgerald/Brent Klumph
- F & B Logging, LLC, Mike Falleur, Warrenton, Oregon – Nominated by Ashley Lertora/Bryce Rodgers
- All Around Logging, Aaron Silbernagel, Lyons, Oregon – Nominated by Mike Thompson

All Around Logging was selected as Operator of the Year 2021. The vote was unanimously in favor. Only Wade Stringham abstained from the vote having nominated one of the operators. The remaining nominees each coming from different Districts in the Area, all were awarded Merit. Awards will be presented by the Board of Forestry at their January 2022 meeting. Videos of the nominations will be posted to YouTube.

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 retreat in October, and SB 1602 and legislation stemming from the Private Forests Accord.

Andrew White, NWOA Director recognized the new capacity awarded to the Agency but expressed some concerns about the domino-effect of the staff movement in filling those new opportunities and temporary back filling of positions and the time lag of associated recruitments.

ODFW-ODF MOA on fish passage. Thomas Whittington, Water Quality Specialist, provided an update about the Memorandum of Agreement between ODFW and ODF covering fish passage on non-federal forestlands. The MOA will affirm 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. 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 rules don't affect the MOA language. Tech Note #4 will be in place January 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 is scheduled to bring their report to the BOF at the November meeting with their findings and recommendations. That report will be available in the meeting materials on the Board's website. <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/board/bof/20211103-bof-agenda.pdf> Coble shared that the Monitoring 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. There was member questions about the issue of non-response for landowner permission which was seen as leading to potential bias in the analysis. Coble noted that the highest non-response rate was among non-industrial small landowners and that the response rate and compliance rates were the highest with industrial landowners, so the pilot study was focusing on that demographic. Responding to a question about the use of aerial imagery, 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 was unavailable to provide an update. Hennemann shared the official video introducing SB 1602 requirements and noted that training on the new helicopter spray notification requirements and changes to the FERNS electronic notification system to meet those requirements is coming up November 3rd and 4th, notice of the trainings was sent out to all operators in the FERNS system and interested stakeholders.

Closing/Adjourn. Chair Barnes suggested with the potential changes coinciding with the Private Forests Accord and upcoming Legislative session it would be best to put off scheduling the next meeting until opportunities for Committee involvement were clear. The meeting was adjourned.