

Draft CFF Annual Report

Introduction

This report outlines accomplishments of the Committee for Family Forestlands (CFF) and discusses progress made on forward looking agenda to address key issues for family forestland. The committee has spent considerable effort addressing this year's budget cycle and implications for family forestland owners. The CFF chair will also discuss policy statements and recommendations developed by the committee.

WORK PLAN FOR 2008-2009 (from last report - 2008)

Over the coming year, the Committee anticipates using the Worksheet on Symposium issues/solutions to direct its effort in 2008-2009 (see attached worksheet). Higher priority / intensity topics that the committee plans to address in the coming year include:

- Keeping family forestlands in forest remains the key issue for the Committee
- Develop financial incentives (cost-share programs, others) for maintaining and enhancing environmental values and services. Create a “green credit” forest fund to pay for conservation easements on working family forestlands
- Train foresters who interact with family forestland owners to talk to them about the Ties to the Land family succession. Use the Ties to the Land program to engage landowners not being reached by any forestry stewardship programs.
- Enact tax credits for keeping land in forest.
- Improve Oregon’s land-use planning process to increase private flexibility while retaining public value.
- Reconnect urban and rural Oregonians through the marketplace. Build awareness of and pride in using locally grown wood and other products. Improve marketing and public relations efforts on behalf of local wood products. Develop local farmer’s market-style markets for wood products. To some extent, the green movement for locally grown wood products is emerging on its own.
- Examine role for the Department in the forest certification process.
- Develop more intensive public education on family forestland owner issues. Collaborate with NGOs to find funding, provide training, develop educational material, and build solutions.

- Reach out to rural property owners with diverging views; address changing demographics of family forestland owners.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2008-2009 (Draft ideas)

- The CFF recommended the Department move forward with a pilot family forestland conservation easement project under the Bonneville Power Authority (BPA) grant program to explore the roles, the interest of landowners in such easements and the nature of the Department's work if the Private Forests Program became involved.

Board of Forestry Decision: July 2008

The Department is directed to address family forestland issues raised by the April 2007 Symposium, the Board's issue scan, and CFF report in the revision of the Private Forests work plan.

Additionally, the Board directs the Department to move forward with a pilot family forestland conservation easement project, under the BPA grant program.

August 2008

- CFF Letter of support for the Private Forests Program option package and the Wildfire Reduction Act to Board of Forestry
- Review Forest Resource Trust Proposed Rules
- Review of Forest Practices Act rule revisions

Sept. 2008

- Review and support of the Private Forests work plan
- Discussion 09-11 Budget situation and Review of Governor's Recommended Budget and ODF plan for 10 % reduction. Created a set of principles and priorities that reflected the family forestland position on budget reduction work.

Nov. / Dec. 2008

- Developing a CFF response to ODF budget issues; policy implications for family forestlands; next steps developing action items
- CFF Budget Reduction Plan Response 1-16-09 to State Forester and Board of Forestry

Jan. 2009

- Continued work on budget; policy implications for family forestlands; next steps developing action items
- Review and support of Safe Harbor Agreement, stewardship agreements, and NRCS Healthy Forest reserve program

March 2009

- CFF testimony to Board of Forestry

A. Board of Forestry Meeting Minutes, March 4, 2009

Dr. Craig Shinn, Chair, Committee for Family Forestlands, addressed the Board. Dr. Shinn remarked there appeared to be a shift in the financial burden to private landowner, away from public contributions. Support from Oregon State University Extension and the Department of Forestry was expected to decrease. Dr. Shinn described the impacts of budget reductions on the family forestland owner, and expressed concern over the expectation that private forest landowners continue to produce public benefits without financial support. As industrial forestry support of the State's budget has diminished, the Department's budget and programs should be re-evaluated.

April 2009

- CFF testimony to Ways and Means Hearings on Budget
- CFF Budget Reduction letter to State Forester and the Chair, Oregon Board of Forestry 4-20-09

May 2009

- CFF input into 2009 Issue Scan.

General

- Committee members took OFRI training on family forestland presentation
- Presentation on family forestland delivered to Upper Rogue Watershed Council April 20, 2009.
- Examined role of certification for family forestlands.