

**State Forests Advisory Committee Meeting  
Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY<sup>1</sup>**

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**In Attendance (Committee Members):** Phil Cogswell (Chairman), Barrett Brown, Carolyn Eady, Matt Betts, Rex Storm, Wayne Naillon, Nancy Willmes, Ed Kamholz, Mike Cafferata, Mike Bordelon, Todd Reinwald, and Jill Bradford.

**Absent Members:** Paul Johnson, Ginny Van Loo, Mike Wilson, Dave Kunert, and Bud Henderson.

**In Attendance (ODF/Others):** Andy White, Gregg Cline, Mike Totey Dan Goody, Mike Kroon, Kate Skinner, Tom Savage, Erik Marcy, Wayne Auble, John Barnes, Jenny Dawson, Rosemary Mannix, Jeff Foreman, John Hawksworth, and Fred MacGregor (PUMP).

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**Housekeeping:**

**Member Terms:** Those members whose terms are expiring have been contacted and submitted applications if they wish to re-apply. The next step is to recruit for the positions that are opening and complete the process before the next meeting.

**Committee Evaluations and Annual Reports:** The agency did not do an evaluation or annual report for 2007. We will be revising the evaluations to be in line with Performance Measure number 8 for the BOF. Instead of an Annual Report, a cross reference listing of topics that were covered during the meetings will be provided so that those who wish to reference the discussions in the meeting summaries can easily find them. All meeting summaries and this cross reference will be posted on the State Forests webpage.

**Public Comment:**

None given.

**Meeting Summary Approval:**

Meeting Summaries for July 18<sup>th</sup> and October 24<sup>th</sup> were approved without changes.

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

## **Agency Budget:**

Mike Bordelon provided a three page handout on the ODF Budget and Revenue Situation for the 07-09 and 09-11 Biennia. The governor has directed a 1.5-5% general fund reduction for the current biennium. The Private Forests and Protection programs have general fund dollars but the State Forests program does not. The agency is currently exploring opportunities to create a 1.5-5% general fund savings in the Private Forests and Protection programs in the current biennium. It is also looking ahead to the 09-11 biennium and planning for general fund reductions at the 10, 15, and 20% levels.

The governor has accepted the agency's proposal for a 10% general fund reduction. The Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) includes a change in the ratio of general fund/landowner assessments (50/50 to 45/55) for the Protection program along with a transfer from the Forest Development Fund (FDF) of 3.2 million to cover general fund reductions in the Protection program.

The State Forests program budget includes six new positions and a placeholder for land acquisition. While there are no biennial reductions in the State Forests program, there are still revenue limitations due to dropping stumpage values that have resulted in the need to take a 10% reduction in the current fiscal year as well as additional reductions in the next fiscal cycle.

## **State Forests Updates:**

**Board of Forestry Direction from November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008:** Mike Cafferata reviewed the handout regarding the BOF direction provided to the agency.

In regards to PM #3, the Board directs the department to increase revenue by 3% per year. It asked for information on increasing revenues while not achieving the habitat goals of PM#6. It also asked the department to account for habitat contributions from areas unavailable for harvest.

The Board directs the department to continue to pursue 20% of the Clatsop and Tillamook State Forests as complex structure. It also directs the department to continue its Species of Concern work.

**SFAC Comments on the BOF direction:** Carolyn Eady comment on the inequity between counties with Astoria providing most of the increase (handout provided). Rex Storm commented on how the Board has spent the last three years determining what percentages of complex structure should be on the landscape (the pie analogy), and this has held up the department in moving forward with IP changes.

**Potential Changes to IP's:** IP's expire in 2011. A lot has been learned through the process used to develop BOF information. This will play into the IP revisions.

Performance measures will be incorporated. Major modifications will have a 30 day public input period. Mike Bordelon would like to use SFAC as a review forum for these modifications. Tom Savage spoke on the importance of communication with the governor and legislature during this process.

### **Wilson River Watershed Analysis:**

John Hawksworth provided a PowerPoint presentation on the analysis. Watershed analyses have been performed for a wide range of conditions. This permits us to compare the results of the analyses and to see where results are unlikely to vary between watersheds and which do vary. There are a full range of State Forests activities (recreation, management activities, etc.) in the Wilson Watershed making this a high priority analysis. The Wilson Watershed is ground zero for the Tillamook Burn fires. There are eight sub-watersheds in the Wilson: Lower Wilson, Middle Wilson, Jordan Creek, Little North Fork, Upper Wilson/Cedar Creek, North Fork, South Fork and Devil's Lake Fork.

Most of the ODF ownership is in steep terrain with the exception of the Devil's Lake Fork. The Wilson watershed is among the steepest in ODF ownership. Landslide issues and hydrologic change could be expected to be as significant here as in any ownership. Nevertheless, there are low gradients SW in the Devil's Lake Fork.

The Wilson is among the largest producers of Coho, fall Chinook, and steelhead. The Wilson is important for Coho. As contrasted with some other watersheds, ODF ownership on the Wilson has a high proportion of Habitat Intrinsic Potential streams for Coho. These are largely located on the Devil's Lake Fork, where low gradient streams provide suitable winter rearing habitat for Coho.

The central finding of this analysis is that the lack of riparian and in stream large wood limits the achievement of properly functioning condition due to recovery from the fires and stream cleaning. A mature forest condition will not be achieved in the next 100 years without disturbance. According to the analysts, only the Little North Fork of the Wilson River was rated in good condition. This was also the sub-watershed with the highest Coho densities during TEP surveys. The poor ratings for many of the other watersheds were largely a function of lack of in stream wood and riparian conifers of suitable size for providing wood. Devil's Lake Fork also lost some points for shading, which may be unmerited given the type of system it is (beaver ponds, etc.) The Upper Wilson/Cedar Creek sub-watershed is rated in moderate condition. While aquatic habitat conditions in five of the eight sub-watersheds are in poor shape relative to ODFW-established benchmark/reference conditions, conditions in the Upper Wilson/Cedar Creek, South Fork Wilson, and Little North Fork Wilson compare favorably with ODFW-established benchmark/reference conditions. The sub-watershed with the best overall aquatic habitat conditions (and that compares most favorably with ODFW's benchmark/reference conditions) is the Little North Fork Wilson.

Incidentally, the Little North Fork Wilson sub-watershed is also dominated by riparian hardwood forests. It's interesting to note that the Little North Fork is doing pretty well without attaining conifer dominance.

Most riparian areas were classified as mixed; however, there is a wide variety within this classification. Subsequent modeling showed that, on the whole, there was unlikely to be conifer regeneration in these stands. Modeling shows that over the next 100 years a self-thinning process will take place. Young trees die, creating favorable condition for greater diameter trees. Conifers will continue to recruit to the canopy (> 14 inch dbh) but at decreasing rates over the next 100 years. To a certain extent, this is a natural part of the self-thinning process and can be suitable for development of large riparian trees. However, further modeling indicated that none of the sub-watersheds would develop mature forest conditions as defined by the FMP without management. The greatest numbers of large conifers were achieved in the South Fork and Devil's Lake Fork sub-watersheds.

Other findings include information on shade, temperature, hydrology and roads. Most major streams, with the exception of the Wilson, exceed 90% effective shade. Stream temperature is not currently a limiting factor. Management is unlikely to have significant effects on hydrology. Sixteen percent of open roads are hydrologically connected (HC). This is at the performance measure target of 15%. As culverts are replaced, accompanying reductions in HC could be traced.

Open roads were generally a low contributor of sediment to streams. However, some blocked roads were also surveyed and these had a much greater propensity to contribute sediment to streams. Efforts to improve these streams must compare the advantages with the potential risks caused by re-accessing these roads. In terms of slope severity, we found 10X more cut and fill slides on blocked roads than open roads. Hydrologic connectivity is limited primarily by the successful installation and functioning of cross drains and blocked roads are not currently maintained. ODF design and maintenance is very effective and meets performance benchmarks but blocked roads are not maintained and need to be considered in a maintenance program. Fish barriers were identified by field calls. Of the 926 culvert-stream crossings surveyed, 144 (or about 15%) are likely or known barriers fish to movement (juvenile, adult, or both).

Dispersed campsites had local effects on water quality. Surveys showed that most efforts to improve dispersed campsites and mitigate damage were at least partially effective (44% effective, 37% partially effective). Measures being taken include:

1. closing some trails/areas
2. relocate trails away from fall line
3. trail upgrades to commonly-accepted standards (e.g., trail grade average should not exceed 10% and slope alignment no greater than ½ the grade of the side slope)
4. limit use
5. survey of undesignated trails using a standardized trail survey system

OHV trails had local effects on water quality. Hydrologic connectivity was generally low (7.3%). However, surveys connected with the watershed analysis indicated that some of these connected roads were a problem for streams. Trails chosen for survey were generally those that we had a greater reason to believe might pose a problem, so hydrologic connectivity among designated trails is probably smaller and undesignated trails may pose a greater problem.

Utilizing the information and findings of this watershed analysis the agency is moving forward in the following areas:

- Generating action plan with districts
- Provide info on priority road locations, restoration opportunities to district planners through AOP process.
- Road inventory recommendations, etc. will eventually be incorporated into the transportation planning process.
- A parallel recreation planning exercise has been going on.
- Future activities recommended by the WA (e.g., standardized survey inventories), are being incorporated into the transportation planning process.
- NetMap predictions are being tested by a Geotechnical Specialist. There is most reliability in the predictions at larger scales (sub-watershed and larger
- LiDAR provides possibilities to improve riparian analyses, as well as slope stability analyses alluded to earlier.

As previously mentioned, ODF has done a wide range of watershed analysis under diverse conditions. Rosemary Mannix states that at this time, the program is taking a step back to evaluate the watershed analysis process and the value of the information produced. How are we using this information and how is it incorporated into management practices? Originally there were four main focus areas. Recreation was added to the Wilson. Would like to come back to SFAC in February to get feedback on the usefulness of this information. Nancy asked how the program prioritizes Watershed Analysis responses. Barrett commented on the recreation aspect of the Wilson analysis as it related to OHV use and road damage, sediment, etc.

### **FY08 AOP Accomplishment Reports:**

Todd Reinwald presented the accomplishments of the FY08 AOP's. ODF is looking at efficiencies in gathering this information to be more useful.

**Future Meeting Planning:** IP Revision, FY10 AOP presentation, Watershed Analysis, Invasive Weeds are timely topics for the February/March meeting. Scheduling for the next three meetings will be coming out via e-mail.

**Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue:** The process of too much presentation and not enough time for feedback or roundtable discussion was frustrating.