

**State Forests Advisory Committee Meeting
Friday, July 18th, 2008
DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY¹**

In Attendance (Committee Members): Phil Cogswell (Chairman), Carolyn Eady, Ginny Van Loo, Dave Kunert, Ed Kamholz, Bud Henderson, Wayne Naillon, Paul Johnson, Nancy Willmes, Barrett Brown, Rex Storm, Mike Cafferata, Mike Bordelon, Todd Reinwald, and Jill Bradford.

In Attendance (ODF/Others): Ty Williams, Dan Goody, Tom Savage, Steve Wilson, Kate Skinner, Andy White, Mike Totey, Mike Kroon, Wayne Auble, Gregg Cline, John Tillotson, Jim Scheller (Watershed Rep).

Morning Public Comment:

None given.

Tour De-brief:

Phil Cogswell: The preparation made by the Astoria staff and the quality of the tour was impressive. The blow-down visual showed the depth of work it takes to clean up the mess that is out there. The speed at which the agency is addressing the issue is commendable. What percentage of the area is able to be dealt with through salvage efforts? Tom Savage answered that some roadside sales are still being put up. The district continues to find small pockets that were unknown. Some are being added to other operations. Special sales can address some of this but for some this is not economically viable. The district is getting all that has economic value. All of the big patches have been addressed through sales.

Rex Storm: Thanked the staff for an informative tour with great visuals. Showing management activities on tours like this is important. While standing in the OFS stand yesterday, he was reminded of the sacrifice in growth and yield that is made to achieve the older forest structure. This is neither good nor bad but a price to pay for the structure as it is not harvested.

Barrett Brown: Appreciates all the effort that goes into preparing these types of tours. He wishes that there was a way to make similar outreach to the public. 5 million people have no idea what is being done on the lands. He feels it is the responsibility of SFAC to bring this message back to the public as much as possible. He is excited to see the new recreation program on the Clatsop. It was informative to see the stand structure typing

¹ Meeting Summary reflects key issues, discussions and decisions, not verbatim language.

that is progressing on the forest. As much as possible, the BOF and public need to be brought to the nuanced understanding of structure based management.

Nancy Willmes: Echoes the comments made so far about the quality of the tour. It was discouraging to hear that some of the salvage may take years. She feels it is important to explore new strategies being looked at what is being done in the riparian areas. She is encouraged by the increased dialogue between the district and other landowners. She learned a lot about the contractual obligations and restrictions that the department operates under. She did not hear about interaction with FEMA and would like to hear more about this. The dumping and vandalism is discouraging. SOLV would like to partner with the agency to address these issues. Viewing the fish passage repairs tied into transportation was impressive. She feels the district achieved the goals and saved money in the long run. The mature forest visual at the end was disconcerting in that the measure of success is unknown, but she was encouraged that the department acknowledges this and is working to refine the algorithm. How much watershed analysis has been done on the district? District staff answered that about half of the analysis has been completed. Tom Savage will get the link with the findings out to the committee. Some members would like to see this as a future tour topic, emphasizing how the findings have been integrated on the ground. The mapping in regards to the 20% OFS was interesting. She would like to see what the other districts are doing with this.

Paul Johnson: Agrees with what has been said so far.

Wayne Naillon: He liked to see the Blastoria area. He likes to see the recreation opportunities being developed in this area. This is an opportunity to see a Forest Park like setting in the Astoria area. Whenever possible, he suggests including non-motorized trails in the older forest structure. He also suggests that having trail heads right off of the highway is useful so users do not need to drive a lot on logging roads. He feels it is important to keep travel corridors like along Highway 26 lined with OFS so the department is viewed in a better way by the public. He is pleased that there is slow but constant growth in non-motorized trails on the forest. He feels the economic leg of GPV has always been strong and he is seeing strengthening of the social and environmental legs every year and hopes this continues. Tom Savage feels these comments are very useful. He would encourage input as the district reviews its recreation action plan. PUMP would like to work more with the Clatsop Recreation Advisory Committee (CRAC) as they already work with the Tillamook Recreation Advisory Committee (TRAC).

Bud Henderson: He appreciated the tour work and felt the tour was impressive. At the present time, the Nicolai/Wickiup watershed council is doing stream surveys that will be informative to the department. They will share the habitat restoration findings and other information as it would be beneficial. It is not a formal watershed assessment. Tom Savage stated that the fish blockages and woody debris issues are being addressed in the AOP's. The operator on the road vacating has done a great job and he would like to see some more Conifers planted in the riparian area. The Gnat Creek hatchery has a lot of nice trails that would have been nice to see. Tom Savage stated that the BOF tour will be stopping there for a lunch stop.

Ed Kamholz: He felt this was a terrific tour, and he thanks the district staff. Tours like this take a lot of preparation time and effort. He appreciates the difficulties the agency is facing as it determines the structure types on the landscape. He feels there is a much wider audience that could benefit from these types of tours. They can really showcase the work being done on the landscape and an informed public is easier to work with. The department is looking at its education and PR efforts and maybe Doug Decker can look at these suggestions to see if more media exposure can be beneficial to the department.

Carolyn Eady: She agrees with the PR benefits, especially the before and after exposures, etc. The Daily Astorian reaches a wider audience. Seeing her backyard was still very informative. The slow, steady progress in recreation is encouraging, but the public always want more. The progress made since OSCUR is truly impressive. It is an art as well as science. The BOF tends to give the agency “missions impossible” to try and make everybody happy. An honest effort is being made to categorize the stands. She feels the agency is on the right track. It is up to stakeholders to communicate with the BOF suggestions on where to go once this inventory is complete and presented.

Dave Kunert: He thanks the district for the tour. He appreciated the effort it takes on top of the current workload. It is a shame to see the acreage of storm damage done to stands that were on the way to layered and OFS and the loss of value to the state and the counties. Now it is as if the district must start from the beginning with stands that had 20 plus years of effort toward developing OFS. He asked for monitoring of the wildlife component in some of these older stands.

Ginny Van Loo: She has been waiting for this tour and is impressed and awestruck with the speed at which the department is dealing with the massive board feet of blow down. She will share this information with the group she works with and hopes to incorporate a tour of this area with that group.

Follow-up:

- How will the department get the money and resources to plant in the riparian areas that were damaged? This will be addressed through budgets and it may take a little longer than is desirable because there was no planning to get seedlings for this work. This has started to be addressed through increasing seedling orders. Are planting costs in salvage higher than those in planned sales? Site prep is higher but the planting costs are about the same. Budgetary constraints may delay some replanting.
- Staff addressed the fire issues caused by the storm damage, but what about insect and disease risk associated with the damage? It is a little less because it is a Hemlock zone, but with the Douglas fir areas there is an increased risk of bark beetle infestation. Rob Flowers, the departments insect and disease specialist, gave the district a lot of information on life cycles and timing during the first round of blow down from last years storm. That information has helped to guide the district in reforestation planning efforts for this event.

- What would be useful for the BOF is the adaptive management built into the FMP to address these types of catastrophic events. We have latitude within the current FMP but how adaptive is the policy framework? Does the policy framework put the operational side of in a box? Carolyn felt there were some strong examples shown on the tour of this adaptive management.
- Barrett reinforced the idea that not all of the lands along travel corridors should be kept in OFS so that the public can see that this is a working forest. Phil stated that signage in harvested areas help the public understand this even something as simple as a sign with the year it was harvested. Dan Goody appreciates the comments on developing OFS around scenic travel areas. Policies are in place that places these types of corridors in special or focused stewardship practices. Signage would be helpful that shows which lands are private industrial and which are ODF.

Housekeeping:

Meeting Summary Approval: Changes were suggested and Jill will clarify these changes with individual members and send out the updated minutes once they are revised.

Personnel Changes in ODF Management: Mike Bordelon covered the personnel changes handout with the committee. He also distributed the current Organizational Chart for the agency. District Organizational charts will be distributed once the movement and hiring settles down.

State Forest Fiscal Budget Reductions:

Mike Bordelon covered the State Forests Fiscal Budget and the reduction strategies used. He also covered the Forest Development Fund (FDF) balance projections for the next 6 years. The FDF is a savings account used by the department to get through times when the program does not receive enough money in to cover its costs. Due to the economic downturn, the department is spending more money than we are currently bringing in with revenue. He covered variables looked at to determine revenue and recovery projections such as stumpage values and housing trends. To keep the FDF balance viable, the program is looking to take a 10.3% reduction in fiscal budget costs over the last budget cycle. He covered the principles and examples used in taking this reduction. Examples of reductions include, discretionary training for employees, silvicultural activities, roadside spraying, recreation infrastructure (campground construction, vault toilets, etc.), invasive species projects, fish stream surveys, and LIDAR.

Bud asked if there were some opportunities to partner with local Watershed Councils on the Tillamook fish surveys. Kate Skinner answered that Fish and Wildlife in Tillamook is looking at some grant dollars to get the work done and the district is still looking into other opportunities.

Carolyn asked about the budget update that Clark Seely gave at the last meeting. How often is the information updated? Mike Bordelon answered that Clark is tied into a network of budget projection tools and resources and updates the department on a frequent basis at Executive Team meetings and other forums as needed.

Paul Johnson asked about how the department is dealing with vacancy management. Mike Bordelon explained that the department looks at each vacancy and determines whether it can be filled after a delay or not at all to accumulate a budget savings. If a position is needed, it is filled. Tom Savage stated that each DF looks at each position and determines whether hiring can be delayed or does the position need filled in original unit or possibly another unit that has a higher need. For example, if an engineering position comes open, does the marketing unit need the position more? Does another district need the position more?

Ginny asked about the reduction in invasive species work. Are there grant funding opportunities available? Can the fish monitoring and survey crew work be done by volunteers? These are things she thinks the department should consider to keep the work going. County revenue funds are also reduced at the same time as the departments as stumpage values drop, however pipeline sales create a delayed drop or recovery for the counties.

Barrett states that the user community is working on bringing OHV development on the Tillamook State Forest up to speed. This could hamstring this effort. Andy White stated that the Tillamook and Forest Grove districts are operating with the most personnel in recreation that has been had. This should keep the recreation program moving forward at a good speed.

Dave Kunert emphasized that the focus should be kept on keeping revenue production as a top priority to aid in recovery.

Integration and Reorganization on Tillamook State Forest:

Mike Bordelon reviewed a two-pager on reorganizing the Tillamook and Forest Grove districts as a single district managing the TSF. After a workload analysis performed by Ron Zilli, there was some reallocation of positions across the Astoria, Forest Grove and Tillamook districts. This was the first step taken. A number of workgroups looked at opportunities to reorganize to bring more efficiency and effectiveness to the management of the single land base. Stopping short combining the two districts, the Area has hired on DF to manage both districts, Andy White. An Integration Coordinator is in the process of being hired to help the DF and Area Director with the integration effort. This person will manage the Area specialists that assist the districts with planning, wildlife, and geotechnical assistance. The Assistant to the Area Director (AAD) will take over the supervision of the South Fork and Seed Orchard managers as well as the Area Heavy Equipment mechanic. In addition, the AAD will provide support for the TFC Director. Mike Bordelon will maintain a supervisory role over the DF's and the Integration Coordinator. It is expected that this process will take two to three years and a Stakeholder

Advisory group consisting of County Commissioners, City Officials, and other interests has been put together to provide insight and input into this process.

Ginny Van Loo asked if there was a cost savings in the budget with the hiring of a single DF. Andy White answered that although there is only one DF, we will not go down in the number of positions once the Integration Coordinator is hired. The driving force behind this effort has not been to save money, but rather to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of managing the Tillamook State Forest as a whole.

State Forests Strategies and Performance Measures:

Mike Cafferata addressed the difficulty the BOF has in measuring GPV. Performance Measures are an attempt to help them measure the department's success in attaining GPV. He covered the timeline of Forest Management planning from 1953 through the present. Performance measures will be reported on every 2 years. The new BOF membership is already looking to change the Performance Measures. The November BOF meeting will likely make a short term decision with long term implications. It is desirable to have the BOF be a policy making entity for the department instead of the legislature. In order to precipitate this, the department needs better data, especially in regards to SLI. We are currently taking a new look at previous assumptions including what determines stand types through DDI, prices, and growth rates. Our strategies may change. There is a compressed timeframe to have this info to BOF by November. This information will need a lot of review prior to the presentation to the Board. SFAC will be looking at this information at the September meeting. GPV was officially defined in the 2001 FMP. It has been around many years prior to the FMP, but may have had a varying definition.

Two-Year Work Planning:

The group reviewed the draft two-year work plan that was put together by Mike Bordelon with input from program staff and districts. Some timely topics include the BOF Performance Measures, Strategic Recreation Planning on the TSF, Wilson Watershed Assessment, and Tillamook Transportation Plan. Other topics that have been on the radar for some time include Hardwoods, Salmon Anchor Habitats, SLI, Modeling and Species of Concern Strategies.

FEMA:

There was 1.3 million dollars of damage due to the 2007 storm. The total for the last two years is 2 million. A snowy winter slowed down repair projects. Reimbursement from FEMA is at 75%.

Salvage on the Tillamook State Forest:

Todd Reinwald gave a brief overview of what salvage efforts are taking place on the Tillamook State Forest. There was no salvage on the Forest Grove side of the forest, only

on the Tillamook side. The district put together 20 salvage sales and all but one of those sales was sold through local bidding and the one other sale was sold through a formal bidding process. There was an estimated 10.6 million board feet and no projects are associated with these sales. They are one hundred percent on Board of Forestry lands. Sales are located in the Miami-Foley Creek, Cole Creek and Lower Nehalem areas. Most sales are adjacent to existing managed stands or are roadside salvage. The Tillamook district did not drop any of their primary sales in their 09 AOP. They are supplementing the volume in the 08 AOP. Most sales are primarily clear-cuts. The reforestation costs are high. Some sales had T&E considerations. The initial biological assessment on the sale that will go through a formal bidding process was considered moderate risk to a MMMA. The sale was modified and now the assessment will be revised to show it as a low risk salvage sale. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation that Todd used in this presentation is available upon request.

FY09 AOP Public Comment Review:

- All AOPs are approved and on the ODF webpage.
- 1 major revision was made to the Astoria (AT) AOP with a minor IP modification.
- All other AOPs remain unchanged.
- 8 public comment letters
 - None to North Cascade (NCD) or West Oregon (WO)
 - AT had 3
 - Forest Grove (FG) had 1
 - Tillamook (TL) had 4
- All AOP public comments are addressed in Appendix D and are available online.
- AT AOP was revised due to the storm and included:
 - Salvage sales
 - Converted 4 primary sales to alternates. These sales will likely be included in the 2010 AOP.
 - Original harvest objective was approx. 65 MMBF and increased to 70.5 MMBF (51% salvage sales).
 - IP modification was due to the salvage acres. It was brought in line with salvage bulletins.
- FG received a comment from the City of Hillsboro relating to a sale that could potentially degrade water purity in a local water supply. District managers visited with the City of Hillsboro managers to tour and discuss this sales and this resulted in stronger working relationships with new city managers. No substantial changes were made to the AOP.
- No modifications to 09 AOP on TL
- 3 citizens and Sierra Club commented.
- The Sierra Club letter, written by Donald Fontenot, addressed modified clear-cuts in DFC complex stands, the size of modified clear-cuts, MMMA's, High Landslide Hazard Locations (HLHLs), and visual implications of the sales. A response was written and posted on the BOF webpage since the letter was addressed and presented to the BOF.

- Substantive comments from the April SFAC will be pulled out and the comments in raw form will be posted on the State Forests website. The minutes will also be posted on the website. Todd will provide feedback as needed. Not all comments or questions are specific to the AOPs or the IPs but will still be posted on the website in the minutes. (A number of members expressed the desire to have the AOP review facilitated with the whole group instead of breaking out into the small groups for the FY10 AOPs. ODF will look at this process and decide the best way to proceed for next years AOP review.)

The next meetings are scheduled for September 26th, 2008 and December 5th, 2008. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.