



# MEETING NOTES

## 2015 Fire Program Review Committee Meeting

January 21, 2016

Oregon Department of Forestry  
Tillamook Room  
2600 State St. Salem, OR

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### Meeting Objectives:

1. Working Groups report on initial work sessions.
2. Discuss and refine key issues and findings of the work groups, and provide further guidance as needed.

**Welcome and Introduction of Committee Members and Staff..... Ross Holloway**  
Introductions of committee members, staff and attending interested parties were made. OFIC's Kristina McNitt has replaced Mike Dykzeul on the committee. A full list of meeting attendees is attached.

**Opening Comments ..... Doug Grafe**  
Committee Chair Doug Grafe provided opening remarks. He welcomed all comments, guidance and counsel in a recognition of inclusiveness, acknowledged the unique roles in this process of the Legislative Fiscal Office and the Chief Financial Officer and that the objectives of the committee today are to provide direction and guidance to the Work Groups for future work.

**Sustainable Large-Fire Funding Discussion.....Tim Keith, Dave Lorenz**

- This work group met on January 7 to begin formulating primary concepts resulting from key issues identified at the December 1 committee meeting and by the work group members.
- A background paper developed by Phil Adams and Mark Wall on landowner roles in fire was shared to emphasize the importance of landowner input in sustainability efforts.
- Staff presented a detailed review of a suite of the five primary funding concepts developed by the work group to-date: Trust Fund, Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund, Insurance, Revenue Alternatives and Equity.
- Staff provided a process update on the 2016 catastrophic insurance policy.

The committee indicated support of further development of the five primary funding concepts. The following comments were made with regard to this work group's efforts:

- Repurpose agency funds to augment fire costs.
- How much of the Trust Fund concept should be General Fund? Explore trust fund security.
- Agencies should work together and share costs when doing similar type work.
- Landowner total costs should not be overlooked. Equity is a core value/principle and involves more than dollars.
- How do we find efficiencies in the management of checkerboard BLM/O & C lands?
- Monetize risk based on sound science.
- Recognize that the current funding system is not broken – the work being done here is intended to find improvements, to provide more stability, flexibility and certainty to an already enviable system.
- More certainty of revenue sources is needed.
- A request was made to provide amount of money spent over the past three years [*Co-chairs' Note: this information is being developed and will be emailed to Committee members when complete*]
- The context should be over the last 20 years, not just three.
- What is equity in the 'New Normal'?

- Consider the impact of locking up General Fund money.
- Are there any current legislative concepts that may affect this effort?
- Concern was expressed about fragmenting efforts to move forward.

**Sustainable Fire Organization Discussion.....Travis Medema, Brian Pew**

- This work group met on January 8 to begin formulating primary themes resulting from key issues identified at the December 1 committee meeting and by the work group members through various avenues (Protection Standards Reviews, 2015 Fire Season Reviews, Strategic Investments, etc.).
- Staff presented a detailed review of a suite of primary themes for recommended further development: Workforce Capacity, Contracting, Equipment and Technology and Training.
- Staff provided charts illustrating the average number of fires and acres burned by cause over the past 10 years.

The committee indicated support of further development of these recommended themes. The following comments were made with regard to this work group’s efforts:

- Audit processes should be reviewed.
- A request was made for copies of the ODF After Action Report.
- There is concern regarding differing policies among federal and state agencies.
- Explore increased effectiveness of the National Guard resources.
- Where is the balance between seasonal forces/wage increase and capacity increase?
- How do the Rangeland Protection Associations fit in?
- Why is Initial Attack limited?
- ODF resources vs contracted resources, effect and balance.
- A request was made to provide a list of ODF-owned vs. contracted equipment.
- A visit to the ODF Fire Cache may help provide perspective for committee members.
- Quantification of risk and reduction in response time can be resource issues.
- Competition for resources in the state, regional and national arenas will likely affect these recommendations.
- Create deliverables that tie directly back to sustainability of the agency (i.e., the value of having detection cameras vs not).
- How do you leverage rate mitigation with investments?
- The most fire-prone lands are the least productive; cost/assessment/affordability.
- Share an increased awareness – broad level landowners.
- There needs to be a comprehensive review of overlapping efforts among agencies.

**Policy Options Working Group Discussion.....Chad Davis**

- This Work Group will formally meet soon to continue formulating concepts resulting from key issues identified at the December 1 committee meeting and additional work group input.
- Resulting concepts to-date include: Hazardous Fuel Conditions Across the Landscape, Wildland Urban Interface, and Prevention and the Use of Planned Fire.

The committee indicated support for further development of each concept. The following comments were made regarding this work group’s efforts:

- Consider salvaging already burned areas and future burn hazards.
- State vs federal contracts: How can they be maximized to accomplish more?
- Spending limitations, explore in-kind match.
- A comment was made that the fed/private interface targets specific geographic areas and is different than wildland-urban interface.
- Consider the differences in management by landowners, ODF and feds.
- Landowners are concerned about protecting their lands, specifically lands adjacent to Forest Service lands.
- Shared boundary/land allocations – study the numbers – risk/opportunity.

- See how fires are crossing boundaries and if there things we can affect?
- Provide the data to get broad consensus on the issues.
- Cause vs cost of fires and boundaries, plot where dollars are spent geographically.
- Should the ODF philosophy of fighting fires change as it applies to structural protection?
- Cast a wide net and include, Department of Land Conservation and Development, Department of Consumer and Business Services, and other agencies that have done studies on structural protection.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency's role.
- Consider sustainable funding for structure protection.
- Prevention: Oregon Department of Environmental Quality-designated areas; review requirements/burn prohibition.
- What level of data/policy/funding is needed to address these topics?
- Invite Land Conservation and Development Commission, Department of Environmental Quality, Smoke Management Advisory Committee, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Forest Industries Council, Natural Resources Conservation Service, DCBS (building codes) and Deschutes County Forestry to this work group.
- Get the public on board.

### **Public Comment**

Bill Kluting, Northwest Regional Carpenters Council, emphasized promoting local, economic and community resources. He suggested exploring exporting of biomass products/pellets as one potential source of revenue.

### **Wrap Up**

Complete lists of each work group's key issues, the resulting concepts/themes and background information can be found at [www.oregon.gov/ODF/Board/Pages/FireProgramReview.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Board/Pages/FireProgramReview.aspx).

There was acknowledgement that some key issues and concepts cross over multiple work groups. The work groups are closely coordinating their efforts to effectively minimize duplication in moving forward.

This committee has been presented with a wide variety of topics and concepts from each of the work groups. The purpose for today's meeting was to provide clear direction on next steps for each work group based on their presentations. For the next meeting, the committee directs the work groups to narrow their concepts to manageable and priority topics. These should be researched and vetted into business cases or a suite of recommendations to be presented to the committee on March 14.

Co-Chair Ken Cummings and staff expressed appreciation of the diversity and level of involvement to collaborate in the development of robust solutions that will be beneficial to the future of Oregonians.

Staff announced the transition of Project Manager Jeff Ennenga to Jamie Paul, effective immediately.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for March 14, 2016.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.



# ATTENDEES

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### List of Attendees

#### Committee Members

Doug Grafe, Committee Chair  
Nancy Hirsch, Committee Co-Chair  
Ken Cummings, Committee Co-Chair  
Tim Keith, Sustainable Funding Work Group Chair  
Travis Medema, Sustainable Org. Work Group Chair  
Brett Brownscombe, Governor's Office  
Senator Chris Edwards  
Senator Michael Dembrow  
Senator Betsy Johnson  
Senator Bill Hansell  
Representative John Huffman  
Representative Kathleen Taylor  
Representative Gene Whisnant  
Jim Walker, OSFM  
Cathleen Connolly, CFO  
Matt Stayner, LFO  
Roger Beyer, OSWA  
Kristina McNitt, OFIC  
Rex Storm, AOL  
Amanda Rich, TNC  
Mike Haske, BLM  
Joe Justice, Hancock

#### ODF Core Support Group

Dave Lorenz  
Brian Pew  
Ross Holloway  
Jeff Ennenga  
Jamie Paul  
Bea Noyes  
Sabrina Perez  
Tracy Guenther  
Abbey Driscoll

#### Others

State Forester, Doug Decker  
Randy Hereford  
Gary Springer  
Roger Johnson  
Lee Miller  
Greg Miller  
Charlie Stone  
Mike Cafferata (conference line)  
Laura Mayer  
Jeff Friesen  
Gregory McClarren  
Amelia Eveland  
Luis Sandoval  
Todd Scharff  
Amy Patrick  
Adam Meyer  
Matt Mackey  
Bill Kluting  
Jennifer Dresler  
Dillon Sanders