

STATE BOARD OF FORESTRY

MEETING SUMMARY

April 23, 2025

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

For full meeting recording, please visit the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPZUQsd6KNU>

For specific agenda items, click the agenda title to go directly to the recorded segment.

Meeting Called to Order

Chair Jim Kelly called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The meeting was held in-person and by video conference in the Tillamook Room of Building C at the Oregon Department of Forestry's Salem Campus, at 2600 State St SE, Salem Oregon. All members of the Board of Forestry were present, with Chair Kelly, Liz Agpaoa, Heath Curtis and Ben Deumling attending in person and Joe Justice, Alexi Lovechio and Brenda McComb virtually present by Zoom.

Chair Kelly called roll and provided general housekeeping information.

Board Member	Present	Absent
Liz Agpaoa	X	
Heath Curtiss	X	
Ben Deumling	X	
Joe Justice	X	
Alexi Lovechio	X	
Brenda McComb	X	
Chair Jim Kelly	X	

Staff present to support the meeting included Interim State Forester Kate Skinner, Board Administrator Eleni Collins, Matt DeVore, Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice and Anika Marriott, Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice.

AGENDA ITEM 1 – OPENING COMMENTS

Interim State Forester Kate Skinner provided opening comments that accomplished the following:

- Recognized administrative professional's day, highlighting the importance of the many different administrative occupations that ensure smooth agency operations.
- Provided an update on the agency's support in combating the wildfires in North Carolina, with 39 individuals dispatched to the Black Cove complex.
- Offered a brief legislative update highlighting several key bills the agency was tracking, including House Bill 3490, which provide solutions to wildfire funding.
- Shared that she had attended a meeting with other State Foresters from western states and had the opportunity to hear from US Forest Service Chief, Tom Schultz. She highlighted the USFS's focus on reorganization and gap analysis with a more refined vision for the USFS anticipated in about 45 days. The USFS wants to provide confidence that they are ready for fire season.
- Overview of divisional updates in agency operations.

Chair Kelly responded with his own comments, including:

- Recognition of the US Forest Service's good intentions, but understanding that their reduced staffing will result in limited capacity.
- Encouragement for Board of Forestry members to complete their annual Governance Survey.
- Acknowledgement of proposed legislation that may change how the State Forester is hired for the Department of Forestry, but recognition that the Board must assume responsibility of this appointment until any legislation passes that would change the process. This includes scheduling an upcoming special meeting in the month of May for the Board to discuss hiring strategies.

Other Board of Forestry members offered comments, which included:

- Discouragement at using State-issued emails for Board-related communications, which Board of Forestry members agreed was difficult to use and they are often locked out of.
- Interest in updates around Senate Bill 1051, the bill that proposes removing the Board of Forestry's authority in appointing the State Forester in favor of a senate-confirmed, Governor appointment. Unfortunately, Derrick Wheeler shared that there had been no additional updates since the bill's March 24 hearing, in which all parties testifying were in opposition of the bill.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – PUBLIC FORUM

4 individuals provided testimony via Zoom. Written Testimony submitted to the Board of Forestry has been uploaded to the Board's meeting webpage and can be viewed here:

oregon.gov/odf/board/bof/20250423-bof-record-items.pdf

NOTE: Multiple comments received on the 2024 Davis Ridge Timber Sale prompted the Board of Forestry to encourage the Department to investigate the facts surrounding the sale. Interim State Forester Skinner performed fact-finding activities and published a memo on the findings, available [here](#).

AGENDA ITEM 3 – STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Interim State Forester Skinner provided an update on the Department's strategic planning efforts, with acknowledgement of the Board's fall retreat as a potential work session for the Board to engage in these efforts alongside Department staff.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – STATE FORESTER RECRUITMENT: PROCESS PRESENTATION

Kylen Stevens (Executive Recruiter, Department of Administrative Services) provided an overview of the State Forester recruitment process, including options for strategies the Board may consider when developing the recruitment plan.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – STATE FORESTER RECRUITMENT: DESIRED ATTRIBUTES PART 1 - DEPARTMENT STAFF

Eleni Collins (Board Administrator) provided an overview of feedback received on the desired attributes recommended for the State Forester, as provided by Department staff.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – STATE FORESTER RECRUITMENT: DESIRED ATTRIBUTES PART 2 - PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Members of the public provided testimony on their recommendations for desired attributes to be considered during the State Forester recruitment. Written testimony submissions on this subject are available here:

oregon.gov/odf/board/bof/20250423-bof-record-items.pdf (pages 21-40)

AGENDA ITEM 7 – STATE FORESTER RECRUITMENT: DESIRED ATTRIBUTES PART 3 - BOARD DISCUSSION

Board of Forestry members discussed desired attributes to be considered during the State Forester recruitment process.

AGENDA ITEM 9 – PRIVATE FOREST ACCORD IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Josh Barnard (Forest Resources Division Chief), Mike Kroon (Forest Resources Division Deputy Chief), Lori Bell (Assistance & Incentives Manager), and Jennifer Ward (Reporting & Training Manager) offered an update on Private Forest Accord implementation, including an overview of the Small Forestland Owner programs.

AGENDA ITEM 9 – CLOSING COMMENTS

Chair Kelly offered the Board an opportunity to provide closing comments. Interim State Forester offered a few closing comments, including notice of the transition to a new Board Administrator for a rotational assignment and upcoming engagement with the Council for Western State Foresters.

Interim State Forester Skinner also formally announced her intention to apply for the State Forester position, which would result in her intentionally stepping away from supporting the Board through this recruitment process. Nancy Hirsch will be the agency's designated representative to support this recruitment.

Chair Kelly closed the meeting out, meeting Adjourned at 2:31 p.m.