

Agenda Item No:	J
Topic:	Appointment of Deputy State Forester
Date of Presentation:	June 3, 2026
Contact Information:	Kacey KC, Oregon State Forester 971-707-2459; kacey.kc@odf.oregon.gov

SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to obtain Board approval for the State Forester appointment of Deputy State Forester.

526.031 State Forester; deputy and assistants; compensation. (1) *The Governor shall appoint a State Forester subject to Senate confirmation under ORS 171.562 and 171.565. The forester shall be the chief executive officer of the State Forestry Department and shall act as the secretary of the State Board of Forestry. The forester shall serve a term of four years at the pleasure of the Governor and shall be eligible for reappointment.*

(2)(a) *With the approval of the board and subject to applicable provisions of the State Personnel Relations Law, the State Forester may appoint a Deputy State Forester, assistant state foresters and other employees of the department.*

CONTEXT

The position of Deputy State Forester became vacant November 1, 2024. Recruitment began for the position January 2025 but it was ultimately cancelled. An interim deputy was designated pending changes to the State Forester appointment through SB1051 and recruitment process.

State Forester KC was appointed as agency head March 1, 2026, and appointed Kate Skinner as Acting Deputy State Forester, April 1, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Board take the following action:

Approve State Forester KC's appointment of Kate Skinner as the Deputy State Forester effective June 4, 2026.