

BOARD OF FORESTRY

2023-2024 Calendar Reflections



Prepared by ODF Board Administrator

State Board of Forestry Calendar

Introduction and Context

At the October 2022 Board of Forestry annual retreat, a discussion explored the pace and scale of public meetings to fulfill the business of the Board. Statutory obligations pursuant to ORS 526.016 require the Board to meet on the first Wednesday after the first Monday for the months of January, March, June, and September. The Board and Department traditionally fulfill this quarterly model, however, with the emergence of two substantive planning efforts in 2023 and 2024 there was a collective recognition that meeting calendaring, cadence, and agenda development must be more fluid to allow for the progression and completion of this work while having the capacity to address new priorities to the agency.

On November 16, 2022, the Board affirmed the [2023](#) and [2024](#) calendars to identify planning efficiencies and inadequacies, shift meeting modality to accommodate diverse policy topics, and streamline approval processes for agenda development. In 2023 the Oregon Department of Forestry's new Planning Division worked with the Board Chair and State Forester to beta-test multiple meeting formats, planning tools, and communication approaches to develop the calendared events. As part of the evaluation process, it was determined that surveying the members of the Board and the Department's executive team will inform us about areas of improvement. As well as identifying competing issues and priorities for upcoming years, it can inform the development of a new board agenda development process that better serves the Board, guides staff work, and remains agile to change.

Summary of results

The intention for this end-of-year survey allows the Department Planning Division, Board Administration to assess the success of public meeting design, planning, and execution, in an effort to progressively improve in the coming years. Each question posed to the members of the Board and their responses have been reviewed through thematic analysis, which identifies any patterns of meaning and synthesizes the responses under the emerging themes. Each open-ended question received a range of responses therefore the dominant categories varied. Ranking and rating questions returned a measurement of the respondent's perceived liking or priority, therefore the categories with the greatest agreement and disagreement were identified as the overarching themes. The total number of respondents is 18 with a 100% completion rate, comprising seven Board members and 11 Department executive team members. Three executive team members declined to complete the survey.

Q1: Ideas for a community event or evening social for 2024

Reflections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information sessions are more interesting. ▪ Seem to work best when kept informal and focused on topics of importance to a local community. ▪ Loosely organized conversation instigated by local leaders goes over the best. ▪ Outside of Salem, appreciated interacting and socializing in an informal way with local community members. ▪ Within Salem, enjoyed meeting with the capitol city residents and organizations. ▪ Socials do not provide enough time for guests to talk to the board. ▪ The format we had this last year was pretty great
Locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Location that has resiliency and restoration work going on ▪ Larger urban area allows for significant local organizing to occur and get the right people in the room, but can be more difficult in rural areas. ▪ Minimum of one social in an urban area ▪ Different locations in the state offer different themes relevant to the area (fire, timber harvest, state forests) ▪ Hold meetings at each of the tribal nations. ▪ Return to NW Oregon, possibly Forest Grove ▪ Event at the World Forestry Center in Portland ▪ Events in college or university towns
Formats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information sessions with subject matter experts (panel or individual) ▪ Both the formal and informal approaches ▪ Board listening sessions in which the host area provides the venue, attendance, and speakers to pass along topics of concern from a local area to the Board. ▪ Evening socials that invite tribes as they are willing to engage. ▪ Set the social in the "flavor" of the community, in setting & food. ▪ Evening social celebrations to honor or spotlight a community (e.g., firefighters) ▪ Open forum town hall-style meeting with invite to all citizens (e.g., meet the BOF)
Group dynamics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ College students, natural resource groups, and upcoming generation of natural resource managers engagement (4) with guest - American Forests or OSU School of Forestry ▪ After the October event, something involving one of the tribes (3) ▪ Promote a dialogue with communities directly impacted by upcoming decision items. ▪ Community listening sessions facilitated by Oregon's Kitchen Table (half formal listening and half mingling) ▪ Federal agency heads, including USFS, BLM, USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, and EPA (at a minimum) ▪ Outdoor recreation user groups panel (state & federal lands) ▪ Local elected officials (county commissioners) and local ODF employees ▪ Listening sessions offer a different vibe where the Board is there to listen to concerns, issues, thoughts, etc from a regional area. ▪ Board and other ODF committee members (SFAC, Adaptive Management Program Committee, etc.) ▪ Timber industry, CEO's, and Executives ▪ Rural small, medium, and large foresters/landowners

Social topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public land use issues (houselessness) panel discussion on effects to OR forests. ▪ Carbon/climate change ▪ Wildfire hazard map ▪ FPFO(Vision) Development ▪ Forest management ▪ Fire resiliency ▪ Feedback on State HCP (NWOA-focused) ▪ Forest collaborations (e.g., Blue Mountain Forest Collaborative) ▪ Partnerships with federal agencies (similar to State leadership meet and greet) ▪ Challenges/solutions for natural resource workforce, emerging professionals, and or students ▪ Land Use Policy/Deforestation ▪ Forest Practices Rules/Loggers ▪ Tribal Engagement ▪ Forest Restoration
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Q2: Ideas for a field tour and location for 2024

Reflections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Field tours set across the State are most important for me. ▪ Enjoyed the tours that helped show progress in small wood successes for Oregon's issues with housing. ▪ I still think about the landowner in Bend, who tried to repeatedly replant unsuccessfully due in part to soil loss and fire intensity. ▪ Due to fire seasons and other commitments, the eastern Oregon area declined hosting tours in the fall of 2024 but is open to hosting in spring and early summer. ▪ Northwest Oregon area can provide support by hosting field tours related to ongoing policy conversations
Speaker remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Each community is addressing its unique challenges and solutions. ▪ Focus on forestry solutions, as well as challenges. ▪ Similarities and differences encountered from other region counterparts in Oregon (e.g., west, and east of Cascade, central, valley)
Locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ John Day, Nature Conservancy lands in SE Oregon, Elliot State Forest, west of Cascades (10), Santiam State Forest, Federal Forests, Tribal Forests (2), Oregon Coast in general (5) – Tillamook, Astoria (2), or Coos County. Douglas or Curry County.
Location or time-specific topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Westside example of Private Forest Accord (PFA) implementation (3)- joint meetings with DEQ and or ODFW, potentially in Rogue area - Ashland Forest resiliency efforts, smoke preparedness ▪ Klamath-lake area or western Oregon or 2013 Douglas Complex fire scar or Santiam State Forest – visit State Forests that had Federal Forest Restoration, postfire recovery (3), restoration in general (2), and reforestation efforts. ▪ Coast range cable-logging operation (2) ▪ Astoria/North Coast for working forests and integrated forest management. ▪ Eugene - University of Oregon ecosystem workforce program, urban forestry, forest products ▪ Clackamas area community forest tour ▪ Oregon Coastal Watershed/Drinking Water intakes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nature Conservancy lands in SE Oregon show the effectiveness of treatments after wildfire, prescribed burning, and manual, and both together. ▪ Gilchrist State Forest – see work completed and what remains (e.g., mechanical thinning, fuels reduction, cross-boundary prescribed fire) ▪ Coastal post-fire in urban interface areas ▪ During fire season - location with severity-funded aircraft to discuss the value, cost, challenges, etc of firefighting aircraft and investments. ▪ Oregon State University research forest to view new options and ideas being implemented (estimated 15,000 acres) ▪ Southwest Washington to discuss forest practice rules with WDNR and pros/cons in Washington vs Oregon, with the theme of how or what are we doing differently in Oregon relative to forestry/fire than our neighbors and why. ▪ Mount Hood National Forest – view a Good Neighbor Authority Timber sale near Camp Creek Fire and Bull Run Watershed
Tour topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Field tour exploring Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and Tribes' connection to nature, if the tribes are willing to collaborate on coordination and share (4) (e.g., CTGR and Oregon Wild) ▪ Landscape resiliency plan – recently completed grant project or other similar resiliency and restoration work (e.g., Federal Forest Restoration) (4) ▪ Urban forestry (3) walking tour with cutting-edge ideas/innovations or visit recent project completion - focus on afforestation or active management. ▪ Active logging operations (3) ▪ Labor Day fire areas/rehab (e.g., visit fire scars 3-10 years old to view restoration successes and failures) (2) ▪ Show the dangers of firefighting at high-severity fires (e.g., snags) ▪ Demonstrate how the agency organizes resources to respond to extreme lightning events and put out associated fires. ▪ Full cycle of a forest operation (e.g., timber sale, stewardship work, operation, truck to mill, mill to product, reforestation site) ▪ Rangeland Fire Protection visits ▪ Development of Small forestland owner office, fish passage program ▪ Wildfire Hazard Map field tour with high-risk areas including presentations from OSFM et al. ▪ Community protection from fire, further discuss landscape resiliency (e.g., hazard map) and Senate Bill 762 and 80 implementation. ▪ What a resilient forest should look like – view examples and learn about the state of our forests and what they actually are when it comes to diversity of species, age, etc.

Q3: Ideas for agenda topics in 2024 to 2025

Reflections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I'll reserve my thoughts on this one so other board members can be heard. ▪ A financial overview of the balancing ODF budget is essential. ▪ DEI needs serious and thoughtful discussion and commitment.
Formats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Informational panels

Time-specific agenda topics

Each board meeting consider including:

- brief update on newly published science that may influence board decisions.
- share a financial overview of balancing the DOF budget.
- strategic plan status update.

First quarter of 2024:

a) Western Oregon State Forests Management Plan Performance Measures shared, b) possibly Western Oregon State Forests Management Plan Rulemaking with June being more likely, c) AMPC update and member renewals, d) Operator of the Year Awards, e) Forest Practices Monitoring Report, f) Annual Legislative PFA Implementation Report, g) Annual Forest Practices Agency Meeting Report, h) Board policy manual decision, i) Post-disturbance Harvest Rulemaking (may require special meeting),

Second quarter of 2024:

a) IT strategic plan information shared, b) Board Approval of Agency Request for 2025-27, c) Board approval of Agency Policy Option Packages, d) Board approval of agency legislative concepts, e) fire season readiness and reports, f) Board approval of FPA budgets, g) Board adoption of joint strategic plan

Third quarter of 2024:

a) Western Oregon Habitat Conservation Plan direction to implement HCP and incidental take permits - dependent on project completion and subject to Board direction, ODF staff capacity, and federal services' capacity (may require special meeting), b) CFF Report, c) CFF reappointments and new appointments, d) RFPC reappointment and new appointments, e) Climate Smart Forestry Award, f) fire season summary report

Fourth quarter of 2024:

a) Board and Agency annual planning retreat, b) Joint strategic plan metric development review, c) board planning and agenda setting revisited, and d) possibly a special meeting for concluding 2024 business items.

Agenda topics

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion commitment by the Board
- Marbled murrelet rulemaking
- Private Forest Accord Habitat Conservation Plan - provide an assessment of the deficits or limitations (e.g., upslope species)
- Fire funding model for state-protected lands
- Any new information on landscape wildfires and their impacts on Oregon forests/watersheds (e.g., federal estate, state, etc)
- Emerging Pacific Northwest (PNW) scientists' science/findings on Northwest Plan implementation, presented to federal officials in Denver 2023
- Wildfires in Oregon (and from neighboring states) impact on soil and changing intensities – recent studies preferred.
- Traditional Tribal Knowledge (TEK)
- Alternative carbon options to consider in Oregon.
- Implementation plan/strategy for Carbon and Climate Change Plan
- Intersections with other Boards/Commissions (e.g., regarding water, housing, land use)
- "State of the science" on forest practices or emerging trends in the forest sector (e.g., a panel on forest practices impacts on water quantity research)
- Current agency monitoring, at all scales, covers any number of areas but gets a better picture of the work that goes into gathering this data (e.g., private forests)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current forest mix/complexity that we have on the Oregon landscape. ▪ Forest Health Report ▪ Urban & Community Forestry Report ▪ Non-industrial Forest Landowner Report ▪ Shared Stewardship and the Landscape Resiliency Strategy update ▪ Oregon Water Resources Department would like to present to the Board the Integrated Water Resources Strategy ▪ SB 80 Wildfire Hazard Map Rulemaking ▪ Modernizing wildfire prevention ▪ Baseline protection standards ▪ Fire protection rule maintenance
Speaker identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Beverly Law ▪ Solution-based presenters in & outside of Oregon/PNW, Canada, etc

Q4: Aspects of the 2023 Board events resonating the most or having the greatest value - Ranking from high to low

Highly resonated/valued										Medium resonation										Lowly resonated/valued									
Connecting with communities, board members, and staff																													
4	2	4	3	1	1	0	1	0	2	4	2	4	3	1	1	0	1	0	2	4	2	4	3	1	1	0	1	0	2
Field tours informing Board policy																													
4	4	6	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	4	4	6	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	4	4	6	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
Community theme-centric socials																													
4	3	2	0	5	2	1	0	1	0	4	3	2	0	5	2	1	0	1	0	4	3	2	0	5	2	1	0	1	0
Subject matter expert on an agenda topic																													
2	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	0	0	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	0	0	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	0	0
Panel of speakers on an agenda topic																													
1	3	2	2	2	0	3	4	0	1	1	3	2	2	2	0	3	4	0	1	1	3	2	2	2	0	3	4	0	1
Panel-centric socials																													
1	1	0	2	1	4	4	2	2	1	1	1	0	2	1	4	4	2	2	1	1	1	0	2	1	4	4	2	2	1
Field tours on ODF operations																													
1	2	2	2	4	1	2	1	3	0	1	2	2	2	4	1	2	1	3	0	1	2	2	2	4	1	2	1	3	0
Public engagement during breaks																													
0	0	0	2	1	2	3	4	5	1	0	0	0	2	1	2	3	4	5	1	0	0	0	2	1	2	3	4	5	1
Downtime between events																													
1	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	3	8	1	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	3	8	1	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	3	8
Public testimony (in-person or remote)																													
0	0	0	1	0	3	1	4	4	5	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	4	4	5	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	4	4	5
Color block notates if agreement occurred 25% or more																													

Q5: 2023 Board events held across Oregon – Rate each 2023 event

Statement Range	Jan. 4-5 Salem	Mar. 8-9 Corvallis	Apr. 26-27 Enterprise	June 7-8 Sisters	Sept. 6-7 Salem
Best board participation and high public and staff engagement	0	0	4	3	3
Solid board participation and public or staff engagement	3	5	3	6	3
Struck balance between board and public engagement	10	3	2	7	8
Imbalanced topics and minimal board participation	1	4	1	0	4
Not well planned for board, public, or staff engagement	0	0	0	0	0
Did not attend or cannot recall	4	6	8	2	0
Color block notates if agreement occurred 25% or more					

Q6: Preboard preparation and Q7: other information for the Planning Division

Interest in connecting with State Forester before a scheduled board event	Yes, connect before all board meetings and retreats (4)	Yes, connect before all board meetings only (3)
	Agreement around connecting with the State Forester and or designees leading up to a calendared board meeting. Consider allowing for an optional connection before retreats.	
Additional feedback to ODF Planning Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (10) No response ▪ (3) Thank you or appreciation expressed. ▪ We are a varied, experienced, and diverse Board, with an enormous amount of work in front of us, so thank you for your always attempting to work hard to engage and inform us! ▪ Appreciate how the Board and Staff were able to accommodate a busy meeting year and shift to more public engagement. ▪ Ranking the various aspects proposed in question 4 may not have been all tested in 2023 but cannot recall each engagement fully. ▪ This last meeting was unusually difficult, political, and out of balance. ▪ Appreciate concluding events by 4 [p.m.], especially with earlier Board meeting start times as Board engagement dips when folks are tired. ▪ I don't necessarily think a social is needed with every Board meeting/retreat, especially those in Salem. ▪ I believe the Board needs to consider if the expanded public testimony periods are having the desired outcome, or simply 	

resulting in the rehashing of polarized views on hot-button topics. The time might be better spent inviting panel discussions that dig deeper into the facts surrounding those issues.

- Too much time for public comment on SF HCP.

Discussion

As members of the Board and Executive Team review this information, consider how many opportunities will be available on the 2024 calendar for socials, tours, and business meetings. Presently the calendar allows for a maximum of four offsites, with two business meetings proposed on the bookends of summer months and two informal retreats proposed in off-season months. Based on the number of offsites, opportunities identified, and workload demands for 2024 – consider the following questions.

1. What commonalities can you find in the list of social ideas, and can you identify any specific themes?

Same question, but now apply it to the list of tour ideas.

2. Agenda topic urgency can vary based on statutory, budgetary, or business needs, would you like to share what other priorities could be considered?
3. What would you like to see some of this data be used to inform? How frequently would like this information to be collected?
4. Do you see elements missing that would be ideal for the ODF Planning Division to collect for next year?