

Committee for Family Forestlands

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We, the Committee for Family Forestlands, are heartened by the formation of the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response and eagerly await its findings in September of this year. The Small Woodland community is however very concerned that the Council does not apparently have a member of the Family Forestland or Small Woodlands community.

12% of all Oregon timber lands are managed by small woodland owners, and these lands yielded 466 million board feet in 2017 (2018 & 2019 numbers not available yet but sure to be higher) They are each comprised of acreage from 10-5000 acres. These holdings, many held by families for over a century, are exposed to uncontrolled fire to a much larger degree than industrial timberland as they are typically at lower elevations and closer proximity to urban populations.

Furthermore, given the crisis in both human casualties, the destruction of timberlands and critical infrastructure that is being destroyed, our new normal what we now call "Mega Fires" we believe the council should adopt a much quicker pace. Given the current constituency of the council, who clearly have other important responsibilities, the stated completion date of this work could lead to an abbreviated report and not be thorough. To move forward with implementation of any recommendations we must get this right.

In closing, the committee would like to also stress that many other agencies have studied this problem. By thinking outside the box and making full use of the trove of resources that already exist such as the book by Gary Ferguson, aptly titled "Land on Fire" published in 2017. It should be required reading for the council members.

Finally, the CFF has a very deep bench of experienced Forestry experts who are willing and able to help in any way.

Sincerely,

Committee for Family Forestlands

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erin Baum".

cc: Jason Miner, Governor's Natural Resource Policy Advisor
Tom Imeson, Chair, Oregon Board of Forestry
Oregon Board of Forestry Members
Peter Daugherty, State Forester
Lena Tucker, Private Forests Division Chief
Kyle Abraham, Private Forests Deputy Chief

* The Committee for Family Forestlands is a standing committee established by the Board of Forestry to assist the State Forester and the Board of Forestry on issues relevant to some 70,000 family forestland owners in the state. Our committee is made up of family forestland owners from different regions of the state, environmental organization and forest industry representatives, a citizen-at-large and ex-officio members representing the Oregon State Forester, Oregon State University College of Forestry, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, the United States Forest Service, small forestland owner groups, and forestry interest/consulting groups.