



# NEOSWA – December Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

## **Attendees:**

Paul Harlan (President), Jack Kleinhoff (Vice President), Jacob Putney (Secretary), Maurizio Valerio (Board Member; Zoom), Todd Nash, Isaac Insko, Jana Peterson, Dani Weaver, Mike Cafferata (Zoom), John Punches (Zoom), Bill Porfily (Zoom), Elena Cussler (Zoom), Nils Christofferson (Zoom), Alan Guttridge (Zoom)

**Called to Order:** 5:32 PM

## **Meeting Minutes:**

- OSWA Advocacy – *Mike Cafferata (OSWA Executive Director)*
  - OSWA Lobbyist – Nicole Mann
    - Works with OSWA to support or oppose bills in the legislature
  - OSWA Governance Committee
    - Meets frequently to discuss current and upcoming issues and priorities. Typically, monthly (last Friday), but as often as weekly during session.
    - All members are welcome to attend
  - 2025 Legislative Session Recap
    - Felt it was very successful overall
    - SB1061 – Lumber Grading Training (Forest to Homes Act)
      - Directs OSU Extension Service to develop a basic lumber grading training program. Successfully completing the training allows an individual to self-grade milled lumber to be used for building purposes.
      - OSU is currently developing the pilot training program and is anticipated to be offered starting in Spring 2026.
    - SB485 – Estate Tax
      - Clarified language from a previously passed bill regarding how forestland owners may qualify for a state estate tax exemption.
    - Supported wildfire funding bills
    - Several bills opposed
  - 2026 Legislative Session Outlook
    - OSWA met with a representative from the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperatives to discuss legislation they intend to propose this session. Rural electric Cooperatives face a number of challenges, including costs/risk of wildfire liability. They intend to introduce legislation to limit coop liability.
    - Douglas-fir die-off – related to back taxes following conversion to non-forest use.
    - Potential legislation requiring licensing of forest consultants.
    - Continue to support OSU Statewides and ODF.



- NEOSWA Priorities – *Discussion*
  - Not in the legislature but discussed Initiative Petition 28. This ballot measure relates to animal cruelty, but has severe implications for the livestock industry, hunting, etc.
  - Discussed the impacts of the increasingly diminishing manufacturing infrastructure across northeast OR, as well as much of the west.
- NEOSWA 2026 Planning – *Discussion*
  - Goal and priority this year to be more consistent and structured with our events. Set a schedule of events by January and stick to it.
  - Priority Events for 2026
    - At least 1 woods-based tour
    - 1 informational gathering/event each quarter
    - Collaborate with the Umatilla/Morrow Chapter on planning for the 2027 Oregon Family Forest Convention. Grant County Tree Farmer, Roje Gootee, was selected as the 2026 Tree Farmer of the Year. Roje will host the 2027 Tree Farm tour at her Rush Creek Ranch in Ritter.
  - Event Idea Brainstorming
    - Policy/Legislative updates
    - Forestland as a business (taxes/accounting)
    - Landowner liability (recreation, firewood/NTFP, etc.)
    - Sawmill demonstration & lumber grading
      - Plan for regional events
      - May try to time with the launch of the lumber grading training program
    - Join estate planning event hosted by Umatilla/Morrow Chapter
    - Woodland Information Nights – Grant funding opportunities (County-based)
  - Board will discuss and set dates for these brainstormed events at the January Board Meeting. Will also continue discussions and planning for the woods-based tour.
- Treasurer's Report – *Brian*
  - Current Balance: \$11,352.04
  - Only activity since last meeting was a deposit of a \$70 reimbursement for porta-potty costs incurred at the Firewise/NEOSWA event in June.
- Other Business/Upcoming Events
  - Succession Planning Panel (Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-5:30pm; Baker City)
  - OSU Extension Webinar Series (Jan. – Apr. 2026; Flyer Attached)
  - N. Blues Restoration Partnership Annual Meeting (Feb. 25-26; Flyer Attached)

**Adjourn:** 6:58 PM

**Next Meeting:** TBD (*Jacob to schedule with Board*)

# *Management Considerations for Oregon's Dry-Side Forests*

## *Webinar Series*



### **Dry-Side Management Webinar Series**

**Thursday Evenings  
6:00 - 7:30 PM**

Website: [beav.es/drysidemgt](http://beav.es/drysidemgt)

**Registration: [beav.es/JJm](http://beav.es/JJm)**

### **Managing Diverse Dry-Side Forests**

Join us this winter for our upcoming series focusing on management of Oregon's dry-side forests. We'll start with some foundational concepts, then take deeper dives into considerations for individual forest types and tree species.

### **Series Schedule:**

- |             |                                       |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>1/8</b>  | <b>Managing Eastside Forests</b>      |
| <b>1/22</b> | <b>Managing Douglas-fir</b>           |
| <b>2/5</b>  | <b>Managing Ponderosa Pine</b>        |
| <b>2/19</b> | <b>Managing Western Larch</b>         |
| <b>3/5</b>  | <b>Managing Lodgepole Pine</b>        |
| <b>3/19</b> | <b>Managing Mixed Species Forests</b> |
| <b>4/2</b>  | <b>Managing Juniper Species</b>       |

**Register Today!**



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Northern Blues Restoration Partnership

# ANNUAL MEETING

## Fire on the Landscape

Join us for the Northern Blues Restoration Partnership's 2026 Annual Meeting! **This conference will explore how fire - both prescribed and beneficial or risk informed wildfire - shapes our landscapes and communities.** We'll highlight the full fire cycle: from proactive work like thinning and preparedness, to cultural burning, post-fire recovery, workforce development, and policy innovations that support fire-ready communities across all lands.

At this year's meeting, attendees will have the opportunity to **discuss our roles in prescribed fire and managed wildfire and strengthen relationships** to get more fire on the landscape.

### At A Glance

#### Location

Wildhorse Event Center  
46510 Wildhorse Blvd.  
Pendleton, OR 97801

#### Day 1 - Wednesday, February 25

8:30am - 5:00pm - General Conference  
5:00 onward - Networking and Film Screening

#### Day 2 - Thursday, February 26

8:30am - 1:00pm - General Conference  
1:00 - 3:30pm - Rx Burn Simulation Exercise (Sandtable)  
3:30 - 4:30pm - Closing & Takeaways

**See back page for more detailed agenda.**

### Lodging

We encourage you to **secure lodging ahead of time.** We have a hotel block at Wildhorse Event Center and Oxford Suites for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights. Find more information at the website below.

**Funding for lodging and travel is available** - please contact [alllandsneor@gmail.com](mailto:alllandsneor@gmail.com) for more information.

### We want your input!

We are planning discussions that focus on different topics and we want your input!

**Please visit the website below to provide your feedback on topics.**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [NORTHERNBLUES.ORG/EVENTS](https://NORTHERNBLUES.ORG/EVENTS)**

## **DAY 1 - Wednesday, February 25th**

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**8:00–9:00 AM – Registration & Coffee**

**9:00–9:45 AM – Welcome & Opening - Stories from the Land**

**9:45–10:30 AM – Keynote: What Happens When We Keep Fire on the Land**

Session will include insights from a landscape that never lost fire and one that is building back a culture of fire.

**10:30–10:45 AM – Morning Break**

**10:45 AM–12:15 PM – “Short Stories” Panel: Stories of Fire & Recovery**

Stories will include stories about wildfire interaction with restoration treatments, a private landowner who has conducted an Rx burn, monitoring efforts showing the ecological impact of fire, and workforce development.

**12:15–1:15 PM – Lunch**

**1:15 - 2:15 PM - CTUIR First Foods Presentation/Panel**

**2:15–4:00 PM Round Tables/Small-Group Discussions**

Potential topics include: wildfire on public lands, agency programs & collaborations supporting fire, ecological effects of wildfire, developing Local PBAs & landowner tools, storytelling, workforce capacity, improving forest and rangeland health, monitoring, wildfire recovery, smoke management, and community resilience

**4:00–5:00 PM – Reflection/Closing/Schedule Reminders**

**5:00–6:00 PM – Social Hour + Resource Fair/Fireside Chats**

**6:30–8:30 PM – Evening Film & Storytelling (can be Open to Public); Group Activities**

## **DAY 2 - Thursday, February 26th**

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**8:00–8:45 AM – Coffee and Opening**

**8:45 - 9:45 AM – Plenary Panel: Fire Across Ownerships – Shared Barriers & Solutions**

Shared solutions from Tribes, private landowners, state and federal agencies

**9:45–10:00 AM – Break**

**10:00 AM - 12:10 PM - Subject Matter Expert Presentations & Breakouts**

Topics include: Managed fire/use of wildfire, cultural burning, and Rx fire policy and operating conditions on private lands

**12:10–1:00 PM Lunch**

**1:00 - 3:30PM: Prescribed Fire - Sand Table & Scenario Planning Activity**

Hands-on activity exploring the full pathway of making a prescribed burn happen—planning, operations, and community engagement—while surfacing barriers, clarifying roles, and brainstorming solutions

**3:30–4:30 PM – Closing: Taking It Home - Regional & Cross-Boundary Opportunities**