

Administrative Memo #304
OSU, College of Forestry
March 1982

Forest Research Laboratory Advisory Committee

ORS 526.215 and ORS 526.225 in 1961 transferred the state's Forestry Research Program to the Board of Higher Education to establish a Forest Research Laboratory at Oregon State University with appropriate advisory committees. The current statute (1991) reads:

The State Board of Higher Education shall establish a Forest Research Laboratory at Oregon State University and shall cooperate with individuals, corporations, associations and public agencies wherever and whenever advisable to further the purposes of ORS 526.215, and may enter into any necessary agreements therefore.

In order that there may be close coordination between the research and experimentation programs and the wise management and use of Oregon's forests for the production of goods and services that benefit all its citizens, the State Board of Higher Education shall appoint a Forest Research Laboratory Advisory Committee composed of 15 members. Nine members shall be individuals who are actively and principally engaged in timber management on forest lands, harvesting or the processing of forest products, one of whom shall be from a small woodland owner's association, three members shall be individuals who are the heads of state and federal public forestry agencies and three members shall be individuals from the public at large. No individual who is a public member may have any relationship or pecuniary interest that would interfere with that individual representing the public interest. The advisory committee shall render practical counsel in the fields of forest management and use and forest harvest and utilization as they relate to the economic and social well-being of the people of Oregon.

The purpose of the laboratory is to provide information that is helpful to users, owners, and managers of Oregon's forests and forest industries, and those affected by such use and management. The Advisory Committee provides counsel on future problems to which the laboratory might focus research to provide problem-solving information; on research relevance and priorities; and on appropriate levels of funding and subsequent support for such funding; and on laboratory policies.

The Advisory Committee represents users of the laboratory's research results, and its members are selected to maintain a user balance in geographic area, company size, product interest, and industrial association contacts. Industrial members of the committee have a personal interest in research and a belief that a public research program like the laboratory's can be of real value to the industry and the people of

Oregon. Individuals at the presidential or vice-presidential level are selected because they are concerned for the entire operation, from raw material source, to product conversion, to marketing, and with long-range decisions and plans as well as current operations – much research is aimed at tomorrow's problems. Such individuals can also commit their organization, to support in the legislature, the program they have supported within the committee. Selected individuals are highly respected in the industrial associations of which they are members, thus they can communicate problems, policies, and other information that has been discussed in Advisory Committee meetings, as well as bring industry and association concerns to those discussions.

In accepting an appointment to the committee, each member has expressed a willingness to become familiar with the research program and to provide both formal and informal counsel, at meetings and at other times as needed.

The Advisory Committee normally meets two times a year, with most meetings one day in length and scheduled in Corvallis. Meetings are held upon call of the committee chairman or laboratory director. The chairman presides. A majority of the committee constitutes a quorum. Meeting agendas are developed cooperatively between the director and the chairman. Brief minutes are prepared and distributed to members shortly after each meeting.

Terms of Advisory Committee members are 3 years, with provisions for reappointment. The Advisory Committee selects its own chairman annually.