

PFA Mitigation Advisory Committee

Staff Report

Meeting Type: Virtual

Meeting Date: May 14, 2024

The purpose of this report is to inform the Private Forest Accord Mitigation Advisory Committee (MAC) and the public about recent developments in the PFA Grants Program and ongoing staff efforts.

The PFA Mitigation Advisory Committee has finalized the following important documents:

- ✓ [Advisory Committee Operating Procedures](#)
- ✓ [Oregon Administrative Rules](#)
- ✓ [Expenditure Framework](#)
- ✓ [Fall 2023 Grant Guidelines](#)

Agenda item: 4. Staff Report

Below is the staff report update.

- 2023 Solicitation Awards going as planned. Expect to have agreements signed in next 12-16 weeks, if not sooner. Drafts already delivered to Grantees.
- Acquisition Working Group Update
 - On March 24, 2024 the MAC Working Group met to discuss water and land acquisitions at a public meeting.
 - It's proposed that the program include water right acquisitions that demonstrably benefit covered specie. Separate expert review teams will assess these proposals and consider risk tolerance in transactions as part of the granting process. Discussion occurred about accepting forbearance agreements, but should include long-term monitoring and factors such as water trust involvement should be part of scoring. Land acquisition discussion focused on easements with strong conservation measures, regardless of development threats, and may be triggered by ownership changes. Acquisitions in "forest lands" was under discussion, with a case-by-case evaluation based on conservation benefits of the proposal.

Agenda item: 5. AMPC & IRST Update

- Terry Frueh and Emily Martin, Oregon Department of Forestry, will present an update on the Adaptive Management Program Committee (AMPC) and the Independent Research and Science Team (IRST). The update will cover:
 - The current activities of the AMPC and IRST.
 - The roles of the AMPC and IRST in supporting the PFA Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)
 - A brief overview of upcoming actions

Agenda item: 6. Research & Monitoring

- The Chair will lead the Committee in the discussion of Research & Monitoring ahead of the anticipated 2024 PFA Grant Program Solicitation.

Agenda item: 7. 2024 Solicitation

- The Chair will lead in discussion of the anticipated 2024 PFA Grant Program Solicitation to gather thoughts, ideas, and opinions from the Advisory Committee for incorporation into the draft 2024 solcitiation. It's recommened the Committee considers the following ahead of this agenda item:
 - Improvements & recommmendations for 2024
 - Funding amounts
 - Funding caps on individual proposals/types
 - Presentation to the Advisory Committee