

## Forest Health Advisory Committee 12/4/2019

Attendees: Jay McLaughlin, Julie Sackett, Andrew Spaeth, Jen Watkins, Amy Ramsey, Loren Torgerson, Rebecca Connolly, Chuck Hersey, Mark Doumit, Chris Conklin, Erika Stone, Chuck Turley, George Geissler, Mike Anderson, Darcy Batura, Rachel Blanker, Joanne Eide, Jason Callahan, Tyson Berbone-Briggs, Brian Bailey, Matt Comisky, Kevin Arenson, Matthew Treda Paul Dahmer, Richard Tveten, Mike Norris, Elaine O'neil, Stevie Mathieu, David Cass

Phone: Sherre Copeland, Debra Kelly, Debbie Hollen

- Welcoming Remarks from George Geissler (State Forester)
  - WFAC working on strategic plan, looking on this committee to do with FAP and 20 year forest health strategy.
- Agency Updates
  - Legislative Session- Joanna Eide
    - Wildfire Prevention and Preparedness Act DNR 2020 Agency Request bill handout, 5996 proposed last year was not an agency request bill.
      - Differences between 5996 and the bill proposed: Suppression does not appear in this bill.
      - Not a strict ranked prioritization not in any specific order, have guidance and goals, Min 5 Mill per biennium for Forest Health treatments.
      - Appropriated account, can't just spend have to request money, they have goals attached.
      - Surcharge- on P&C Insurance instead of % on premiums it's a flat surcharge per policy.
      - Focuses on the two strategies and goals for these, does not focus only on DNR activities this is for other state agencies as well.
  - WDFW-Richard Tveten
    - 5,100 acres this year, burned 1,400 acres. Treated over 16,000 acres 4,000 was burned on top of that, reduced fuel loading.
    - Budget it a big one, handout provided.
    - Updated website that outlines 2020 legislative priorities.
    - General updated- appreciated being able to attend DNR and Forest Service around shared stewardship and the collaborative. Met with Mount Baker-Snoqualmie and working together, closer to actionable items.
  - Good Neighbor Authority-Brian Bailey (Handout provided)
    - GNA only active since 2018, have sold 7 projects, and a few coming up.
    - Sold fuels treatment about 500 acres, 650 acres this spring. Will leave 600 acres for the forest service.
    - Tillicum planning area has a project set up, 420 acres.
    - Tannum is one of the planning areas also.
    - Proposed projects into 2022.
    - Colville national forest planning area 600 acres was sold in Aug 2018 will be completed by Oct 2020.

- Working in Deadman and Nancy Creek watersheds, almost completed around 400 acres.
  - Skookum planning area, reviewing timber sales packet 1,500 acres, In Jan
    - Neepa analysis will be done for the environmental assessment.
  - East project Oct 2020 1,500 acres.
  - Picked up a lead engineer working statewide, bringing on another engineer under them within the next few months.
    - Partnering with Skamania county to get some work done with the National Forest.
- Prescribed Fire Program-Mike Norris
  - Program focused in a few areas: assisting and implementing on federal and state land, WA certified prescribed burning program (Julie would like to bring back to this group before roll out, target date is Spring 2020)
  - Trex training exchange, working with national cohesive strategy, working with coordinating resources on priority lands, working towards the 20 year forest health plan.
  - Working on DNR prescribed fire policies, and working with DNR staff to get them rolled out in Jan 2020.
  - Building resources within the program, hiring a Fire Ecologist, 30 engine leaders, and Prescribed Fire Training Specialist (working on position description).
- Shared Stewardship- Mount Adams Resource stewardship-Jay McLaughlin (presentation provided)
  - Planning areas, focal area maps
  - Mt Adams resource stewards established in 2004, governed by a ten member board of directors, 3 full time staff.
  - South Gifford Pinchot Collaborative, which formed in 2008. In 2011 two collaborative formed to create this group.
- Forest Action Plan-Andrew Spaeth
  - Established in 2008 Farm Bill, develop a plan to address threats in your state. Must have to be eligible for cooperative money, 12.8 Mil dollars. Congress asked these plans be updated every 10 years, we are doing a full rewrite for June 2020.
  - Focus on Westside of the Cascades, don't have same strategy as the Westside.
    - Questions: What are the threats facing the forests on the Westside?
      - Conversion 1.1% per year in the last decade on Small land owners.
      - Drought
      - Fire
      - Old plantation (over stock old growth)
      - Lack of active management
      - Insect and Disease-Swiss needle cast
      - Shifting landscapes- climate changes-species viability
      - Workforce- logging contactors loss of aging investments
      - Cost of land to do business- Forest industry and infrastructure
      - Politics

- Roads- access to forests roads falling apart on the Westside, Maintenance.
- Succession in ways that at A- typical, fir trees invading prairies, trees are growing where they have not grown historically.
- Loss of critical habitat- too many trees in a lot of places, conversion.
- Agriculture- conversion for agriculture, Orchards, fantasy farming
- Barred owl- indirect threat
- Old policies- how they are interpreted, framework is 30+ years old
- Public knowledge gap, misconceptions about forest management, RX Fire
- Recreational shooting, safety issues, social problem
- Invasive plants- blackberry, scotch broom lots of acres not doing well
- Scale mismatches, boundary conditions
- Preparing areas- don't set up to be the most vulnerable
- Social economic decline of rural areas
- Markets, wood markets, general for land and HBU value in urban areas around Puget Sound. 10-20 times the value for developing the property vs growing trees, Social license- definition on forest land vs agriculture, how forest land and habitat is defined.
- Managing forests around neighbors, harvesting and managing to replant, growth management
- Respect different management values and approaches
- Marketing "local" forestry
- Coordinating on collective interest and work
- Science based and Geo spatial mapping and data you may want to see:
  - Landowner-Luke Rogers
  - Watershed restoration- at risk watersheds, action plans available
  - Opportunities Zones- data development from these under the last tax bill
- 2020 FHAC Meeting Schedule-Jen Watkins
  - Who are we missing at the table?
  - How can we make this body function well?
  - Quarterly meetings already set for 2020, do we want to move locations from Olympia but add some out in the field, or optional trips between the meetings.
  - Using and asking more of committee about webinars, treatment tracking. Rarely have enough time for discussion. Offer webinars to discuss these issues.
  - 10 Year Wildfire Strategy, have a joint meeting with WFAC there are some recommendations that are starting to overlap.
  - What will these meetings need to make them valuable to you? Send thought of what you want to see out of these meetings. Open invitation for feedback.