

## **Small Forest Landowner Office Advisory Committee Meeting Notes**

**September 19, 2018**

Present: John Henrikson, Tami Miketa, Chris Conklin, Mark Hicks, Rich Weiss, Bill Kemp  
Phil Hess – by phone.

Additional attendees: Ken Miller, Vic Musselman, Dick Alescio

### **Review July 18, 2018 SFLOAC Meeting Notes**

Notes approved as written.

Rich Weiss told the committee that members of the Hardwoods Commission (himself included) and the WA Farm Forestry Association recently met with Commissioner Hilary Franz to discuss the Small Forest Landowner Office upcoming budget request for FY19-21. The SFLO budget request for FY19-21 is for:

- 4 additional FTE's for Stewardship & Technical Support
- \$20 million for the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP)
- \$17.3 million for the Forestry Riparian Easement Program (FREP) to buy the entire queue through June 2019
- \$6 million for the Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program (RHOSP)

Rich said the Hardwoods Commission and the WA Farm Forestry Association are willing to meet with legislators to support the SFLO budget request.

### **Updates on FREP/FFFPP**

#### *FREP Update*

Dan is hoping to purchase 35 to 40 easements with the \$2.5 million allotment for this biennium.

#### *Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program (R&HOSP) Update*

Through the prioritization processes, 2 R&HOSP easements have been selected with the \$1 million allotment for this biennium. One easement is for the Channel Migration Zone and one easement is for the Critical Habitat of State Listed Threatened or Endangered Species.

#### *FFFPP Update*

It is anticipated for the 2018 season, the FFFPP will remove 19 fish barriers opening an estimated 55.3 miles of habitat.

### **Resume discussion on criteria for defining the term “relatively low impact on aquatic resources” regarding small forest landowner alternate management plans or alternate harvest restrictions**

WAC 222-12-040(2) states: *The legislature has found in RCW 76.13.100(2) that small forest landowners should also have the option of alternate management plans or alternate harvest restrictions on smaller harvest units that may have a relatively low impact on aquatic resources. These alternate plans are intended to provide flexibility to small forest landowners that will still provide protection of riparian functions based on specific field conditions or stream conditions on the landowner's property.*

The Committee discussed what metrics to use to determine what defines “relatively low impact” on aquatic resources when applying the option of alternate management plans or alternate harvest restrictions on smaller harvest units. Some points/ideas that were raised:

- Highlight less costly regulatory prescriptions
- RCW 76.13.110 references a demographic report to be submitted to the legislature every 4 years. In this report, estimates of the number of small forest landowners are divided into specific acreage categories:
  - 20 acres or less
  - 21 to 100 acres
  - 101-1,000 acres
  - 1,001 to 5,000 acres

One thought that was brought to the attention of the Committee is to use these smaller acreage categories (10 to 100 acres) to define “relatively low impact”.

Ken Miller distributed a document which identifies criteria that could be used to help determine ‘relatively low impact’. Some criteria identified are:

- Smaller streams
- Seasonal Type F streams
- Obstructions in the RMZ
- Low gradient intermittent streams
- Individual tree, group selection, or small patch cuts
- Hardwood conversion
- Forest health situations

Mark Hicks stated that these alternate plans must meet water quality standards. Also, site specific aspects need to be taken in to account.

Using the small forest landowner alternate plan summary tables that Tami created, Chris Conklin was able to determine that small forest landowner alternate plans are on average, 39 acres in size.

The SFLOAC is in agreement, conceptually, to harvests that are relatively low impact, but disagree on the details of what the definition should be.

The Committee discussed some conditions that might be identified as potentially “relatively low impact” harvests:

- Harvesting around ephemeral streams
- Incremental actions on a site – harvest certain percentage of stream at a time
- Thinning strategy with wood placement

### **SFLO Demographic and Road Survey**

DNR, Dept. of Ecology, WA Farm Forestry Association (WFFA), the Washington Tree Farm Program (WTFP), WSU Extension and the Northwest Natural Resources Group (NNRG) will distribute the statewide Small Forest Landowner Demographic and Road Survey. WFFA is actively working to get the word out to increase participation from landowners so that Ecology's concerns about road compliance are addressed. The goal of this survey is to gain information regarding small forest landowner demographics and information regarding the condition of their roads. This survey is intended to improve our knowledge base regarding the status of small forest landowners in meeting their Forest Practices road maintenance requirements. The Small Forest

Landowner Demographic and Road Survey will be posted on Survey Monkey and all survey results will be documented by the SFLO Manager. The survey can be taken at:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/landownersurvey>

**Next Meeting:**

- Rich Weiss and Tami Miketa will update the committee on the status of the FY19-21 SFLO budget.
- Need to discuss and agree to 2019 dates and times for the SFLOAC meetings.
- Discuss the SFLOAC recommended updates to the FPA/N.

The next SFLOAC meeting will be held on November 7, 2018 from 12:00 to 4:00 at the NRB in Room 362.

Meeting Adjourned