

DRAFT
Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee Meeting
Notes
January 5, 2016

Present: Vic Musselman, Tami Miketa, Ken Miller, Tammie Perreault, Terry Jackson, Boyd Wilson, Mark Hicks, Jim Heuring, Jeffrey Thomas, and Phil Hess (by phone)

Review of 11/17/15 SFLAC meeting notes. In the “Discussion of a Sample Alternate Plan” section, the committee clarified that Mark Hicks volunteered to help create guidance for completing the alternate plan application and will bring it back to the committee to review. Ken Miller said that he is working on providing guidance to complete Question #3 of the Alternate Plan form for WFFA. He would like to send his draft to Mark Hicks, Jim Heuring, and Terry Jackson for their review.

Notes were approved after this clarification was made.

SFLO Forest Stewardship Grant Proposal

DNR recently submitted a grant proposal to the Natural Resource Conservation Service’s Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). This proposal was to create a Landscape Scale Master Forest Stewardship Plan and expand small forest landowner educational programs (e.g., Forest Owners Field Days, Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Courses, etc.) in the Upper and Lower Chehalis Basins. The master plan will combine general and forestry specific information about the basin and be used as a template for stewardship plans tailored to individual ownerships. Both basins are rich in stream habitat for chum, chinook, and coho salmon, as well as significant runs of cutthroat trout and steelhead. Although the watershed contains abundant forestland, impaired water quality has led to several stocks status being classified as depressed or critical. Using a Landscape Scale Master Forest Stewardship Plan will ensure that all individual plans created in the planning area will preserve the health of fish-bearing streams along the entire length of their runs. The grant proposal was for \$445,000 to complete this project over a 5 year period. WFFA provided a letter of support providing in-kind cost share contributions of up to \$10,000 for this proposal.

Update on Fisher CCAA

Terry Jackson wanted to give the committee an update on the Fisher CCAA. On April 7th the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be making their listing decision on the Fisher. If interested, people need to be signed up for the CCAA by that date. Terry is currently working on outreach to connect with landowners. Currently 5 landowners have contacted Gary Bell who are interested in the CCAA and want an on-site visit. Tami will send the information about the Fisher CCAA to the SFL newsletter and the Forest Stewardship Notes contacts.

Open Discussion on SFL RMAP Obligations

Tami provided a brief summary of results of the draft 2015 SFL RMAP Pilot Project. The pilot project reached out to almost 10,000 landowners asking the following questions:

- What is the extent, location, and condition of roads on small forest landowner parcels; and
- What is the small forest landowner understanding of road conditions on their land, the potential for protecting public resources, and what, if any, RMAP requirements apply.

The goal of the project was to learn more about:

- The statewide extent, location and condition of roads on small forest landowner parcels.
- The landowner's understanding of their road conditions their roads' potential for protecting public resources, and any applicable RMAP requirements apply.
- The paucity of funding to ensure that compliance with WAC 222-24-0511 is met.

Of the 9,296 small private forestland owners in the targeted area, only 222, or 2%, provided feedback. The total area represented by respondents was 23,530 acres, and the majority of landowners reported ownership in the 20.1 to 100 acre class (50% of respondents). More in-depth information regarding the survey results will be distributed once the report is final.

Brandon Austin, the Forest Practices Operations Manager, stated that there have been over 54,000 Checklist RMAPs submitted by small forest landowners. The Forest Practices Operations group is currently working on including the Family Forest Fish Passage Program application form directly into the Forest Practices Application. This will make it much easier for landowners to sign up for the program. The Operations group is also working on updating the Checklist RMAP and will send a draft to Tami to distribute to the Advisory Committee for their review.

The Advisory Committee brainstormed methods that could be used to help educate small forest landowners about their RMAP requirements. The Operation group is also updating the RMAP brochure and will distribute it to the committee for their review as well.

Preparation of One Page Overview of ID Team Process

Vic has drafted a one page overview of the ID Team process to help landowners understand what to expect. Vic is asking for Advisory Committee to review and comment. Brandon said that the FP Operations group has a one page guidance document of the Id Team process and will distribute this to Vic to incorporate into the next draft document for Committee review.

Overview of Changes Being Made to the Oregon RMA Prescriptions

Vic provided an overview of the changes that are proposed to the Riparian Management Area prescriptions under the Oregon Forest Practices Act. Changes were made to the required buffer widths for small and medium size fish bearing streams where the small stream buffer went from 50' to 60' and the medium stream buffer went from 70' to 80'. The more critical changes that will be coming is that all buffers will be designated "no touch," whereas in the past harvesting was allowed down to a minimum tree basal area requirement. See attached documents.

Status Update on WFFA Small Forest Landowner Template

Dick Miller was unable to attend this meeting to give the Advisory Committee an update. However, Terry Jackson and Mark Hicks are members of the Policy SFL Low Impact Template Subcommittee. They said the sub-committee is currently reviewing criteria to use for evaluating each prescription in the template.

Open Discussion on Long Term Goals for the SFLAC

The Advisory Committee brought up some questions regarding the long term goals of the committee to start the discussion:

- What were our goals for this past year?
- How can we support the Small Forest Landowner Office (SFLO)?
- What scientific information can we support?
- How can we help in securing grants?
- How do we add value to the committee and the SFLO?

The committee reviewed RCW 76.13.110 *Small Forest Landowner Office – Establishment – Duties – Advisory Committee – Report to the Legislature*
RCW 76.13.110(4) states:

“An advisory committee is established to assist the small forest landowner office in developing policy and recommending rules to the forest practices board.”

The Advisory Committee believes it could be most effective if they are able to “increase their influence”. The committee needs to focus on the benefits small forest landowners provide to the people of the state of Washington, such as:

- Carbon sequestration
- Clean cool water
- Abundant wildlife
- Cultural resources protection

The Advisory Committee also needs to prioritize issues such as

- Economic impact on SFL
- Forest health and fire resistance
- Risk of conversion

This topic will be the focal point of the next Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee Meeting scheduled for March 9, 2016 from 12:00 to 4:00 at the NR Building in room 382.

Meeting Adjourned