

Forest Health Advisory Committee

October 25, 2017

Meeting Summary

1. **Commissioner of Public Land Hilary Franz** called the meeting to order at 2:40 PM.
2. **Representative Tom Dent**, standing in for Senator Judy Warnick, welcomed the Committee to the 13th District.
3. **Senator Brad Hawkins** reviewed his recently enacted 2SB 5546 “An Act Relating to proactively addressing wildfire risk by creating a forest health treatment assessment” (*codified as RCW 76.06.200*) that, among other provisions, tasked the department of Natural Resources to create the Forest Health Advisory Committee, as appointed by the Commissioner of Public Lands. This is the Committee’s inaugural meeting. Senator Hawkins described his bill and discussed how the work of the Committee interacts with the forest health assessment and treatment framework, and biennial reports to the Legislature established in the bill. Members of the Committee introduced themselves and their organizations.
4. **Committee Member Introductions** - Members of the Forest Health Advisory Committee introduced themselves and their organizations. (Attendance List attached)
5. **Representative Joel Kretz** then discussed 2SHB 1711 “AN ACT Relating to prioritizing lands to receive forest health treatments”, (*codified as RCW 79.10.510 and .520*), which specifically targets state lands and state forest lands, commonly known as state trust lands, for prioritization and treatments. He explained how the two bills were enacted as complimentary pieces of legislation, and how they will work together. The bill also establishes a revolving account (*codified as RCW 79.64.130*) that provides an account for revenues that may be earned from thinning projects to be deposited into the account and used for additional forest health projects on state lands and state forest lands.
6. The Committee then heard a presentation on the just released **Forest Health Strategic Plan: Eastern Washington**, by DNR Forest Health Scientist and Principal Author of the Plan Chuck Hersey.
7. The presentation was followed by a **roundtable discussion** among the committee members, legislators and audience.
8. A **Committee organizational discussion** followed with the following takeaways for members and DNR staff:

For Committee Members:

A list of projects underway, and expected to be underway in both the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 fall spring treatment seasons, by ownership, acreage, locations and funding sources if possible.

For DNR staff:

For general committee business:

1. Long term plan
2. Possible tours for the committee
3. Provide for remote meetings

For next committee meeting:

1. Draft Charter
2. Draft Work Plan for the next year
3. Assessment Framework
4. List of Potential subcommittees
5. Doodle poll for next meeting

Points of contact at this time: (contact info added prior to distribution)

1. Dave Warren for Committee business
2. Chuck Hersey for Strategic Plan
3. Trevor McConchie for GNA