

Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee Meeting

Natural Resources Building

Room 362

April 27, 2012

In attendance:

In person: Tami Miketa, Mark Hicks, Phil Hess, Ken Miller, David Overton, Michelle Peterschick, Laurie Cox (to discuss the SFL Checklist RMAP)

By phone: Tammie Perreault, Jeffrey Thomas, Maurice Williamson

Status of the Forest Practices Long Term Application Survey – Tammie Perreault

Tammie gave a power point presentation on the LTA and handed out a document outlining the key points to the survey, see below.

The Long Term Application survey is now closed. There were 89 respondents who took the survey. Attached is a document Tammie created that shows her key points from the survey.

Action: Tammie will distribute the Power Point presentation to the SFLAC members. Michelle will distribute the LTA survey results without names.

Based on the information from the survey, the Committee discussed ways to target the larger small forest landowners who most likely would benefit from LTA's. Ken thought that one option was to review FPA's from the last 10 years and pull out any small forest landowners who have repeated renewals. Phil said there is also a real need for the Forest Practices Foresters to keep promoting the LTA process. David said that in order for the LTA process to be successful, it needs to be vested, meaning that during the 15 year period of the LTA, if the rules change, the landowner does not need to adjust to the new rules, they can keep following the rules that were in place as of the date when the LTA was approved.

There was a discussion regarding all of the Forest Practices Application options for small forest landowners, such as:

1. The new 3-year application
2. A multi-year Alternate Plan
3. The 15-year Long Term Application

Action: The Committee asked Tami Miketa to create a matrix of the FPA options outlining the review process, the cost, etc.

There was also a discussion on Stewardship Plans. Phil said there seems to be a lack of integration with a Stewardship Plan and the Forest Practices rules. For example: in his

opinion, the Stewardship Plan must identify streams or bodies of water on the owners land, but does not require the water to be correctly typed. Maurice said that Stewardship Plans need to have a good accurate inventory of their land, especially for the eastside. Tammie said one of the most basic problems that keep a landowner from being able to complete their own management plan is the lack of knowledge of how to use the water typing system. David said there is also the opportunity to use educational programs through WFFA, Farm Bureau, and American Tree Farm Assoc. to educate folks about the LTA process.

SFL Checklist RMAP – Laurie Cox

Laurie presented an addition Forest Practices Operations has made to the SFL Checklist RMAP. A section has been added to address the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP). In the checklist this section adds 2 questions the landowner can answer if they have a fish blockage:

- I choose to enroll in the Family Forest Fish Passage Program and would like to have my potential barrier evaluated for eligibility. I understand that by checking this box I may be required to provide cost-share associated with the barrier removal or replacement.
- I choose not to enroll in the Family Forest Fish Passage Program and accept responsibility for removing or repairing any artificial fish barrier on my forest roads at my own expense. Pneumonia

The SFLAC agreed this addition to the Checklist RMAP will help SFLs understand their obligations under the forest practices rules and that the addition may garner additional enrollment for FFFPP. DNR agrees with the SFLAC suggestion to present this addition to the FFFPP Steering Committee.

SFL Office Survey Update – Michelle Peterschick

The SFL survey is still open and there are now 3700 subscribers to the SFLO News. The survey has had 465 respondents. In general, the survey shows most of the small forest landowners own 100 acres or less, have owned their land (intergenerational) less than 50 years, and timber management, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics are their main objectives. The survey will remain open as the SFLO is still receiving updated survey results. The

FREP May 31st Report to the Legislature – Tami Miketa

DNR with input from interested stakeholders is reviewing the options for long term funding brought forward at the February 8th FREP Long-term Funding public workshop. DNR with input from stakeholders is preparing the report for the legislature before May 31st. David said in order for the WFFA and the American Tree Farm Assoc. to support FREP funding options, the SFLAC requested to see the report before sending it to the

legislature. Tami could not say if this would happen and stated she needed to talk to her managers.

20-Acre Exempt Compliance Action Plan

This subject will be discussed at the next SFLAC meeting in June. It was agreed the agenda and meeting materials will be sent out to the SFLAC to review the topics related to the 20 acre exempt rule to make sure they understand the issues to address at the meeting.

Bear Management – Tammie Perreault and Ken Miller

This topic was informational only. Tammie gave a Power Point presentation showing the bear damage on her property. Tammie and Ken said that bear damage to trees has been very dramatic on lands near Capitol Forest. Approximately 20 trees have been damaged on Tammie’s land and approximately 200 trees have been damaged on Ken’s land. Ken has been trying to get a depredation permit from WDFW but has been unsuccessful. He is also concerned about the recent language changes by WDFW to the Depredation Permit. It now states:

“If this permit is being issued to remove black bear to reduce damage to commercial timber crops, the landowner agrees to allow vehicle and foot access to all of their land for public hunting during the general fall bear season, August 1st – November 15th of each year. It is required that all gates will remain open during this time unless public health and safety conditions arise due to fire danger.....The permittee also agrees to provide WDFW Enforcement Officers year-round access to all of their land and will provide keys to their gates before a permit is authorized.”

Ken has been working with WDFW to have these provisions removed from the permit.

Forests and Fish Type N Sub-committee Survey Results – Mark Hicks

Mark said the intent of this survey was to find out how correctly practitioners in the field believe the identification of the Upper Most Point of Perennial Flow (UMPPF) is being identified. There were 176 responders to the survey with small forest landowners being the largest response group. This is a work in progress and the sub-committee is still digesting the findings. They will create a summary to send to the Type N sub-committee. Phil asked what is the action that comes out of this survey. Will there be a need to do something different? Mark said this is just a summary of opinions of how well practitioners believe they’re doing on the ground and he is not exactly sure yet how this survey will be used.

Small Forest Landowner News – future topics, priorities – Phil Hess

Phil suggested the following topics for the SFL News:

- New FPA fees
- Brian and Donna Louckes received the Western Region Tree Farm of the Year award.
- Doug Stinson received the Western Region Tree Farm Inspector of the Year award.
- Forest Health funding
- Forest Health Technical Advisory Committee
- Biomass Study

Michelle asked to have any other topics the SFLAC would like to put in the SFLO News to send them to her.

Small Forest Landowner Office Updates – Tami Miketa

2ESSB 6406

For small forest landowners, the fee for applications and notifications relating to commercial harvest of timber is \$100 for Class II applications and notifications, Class III applications and notifications, and Class IV-Special forest practices for a single contiguous ownership consisting of one or more parcels. Small forest landowners who have multiple non-contiguous ownerships consisting of one or more parcels, the fee for these applications and notifications is \$150. The fee for Class IV-General forest practices applications is \$1500 for lands being converted to other uses or on lands that are not to be reforested because of the likelihood of future conversion to urban development.

ESB 6074

ESB 6074 is a bill relating to funding capital projects. In this bill is the supplemental capital budget. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) received \$10 million for the Family Forest Fish Passage Program. It is estimated that approximately 95 projects will be funded with this appropriation. The challenge is finding enough sponsors and engineers to do the work.

Phil thought there was \$4 million allotted from the Jobs Bill for forest health issues on the eastside. This allocation was in another bill ESB 5127 which relates to state general obligation bonds and related accounts. In this bill DNR receives up to \$4,150,000 for noxious weed abatement and precommercial thinning on state trust land and forest treatments to reduce insect, disease, and wildfire hazards on private and federal lands. It is not clear how this funding will be appropriated between these entities.

TFW Cultural Resources Roundtable – Jeffrey Thomas

Jeffrey asked if the SFLAC would like to receive information from the Cultural Resources Roundtable. The SFLAC said they would like to receive this information. Phil will contact the Roundtable's distributor of agendas and notes to be added to the mailing list. Before the next SFLAC meeting Phil will send all Roundtable information to Tami and she will distribute it and the upcoming SFLAC agenda to the SFLAC.

In closing....

Phil complimented Michelle for doing such a great job on the newsletter. He said it is very good and refers it to others often. Keep up the great work Michelle!

Next meeting will be June 21 or 27, or 28. Tami will make arrangements with the SFLAC to pick a date that works.

Meeting adjourned