

Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee (SFLOAC) Meeting

Wednesday, September 3rd 2008, 1:00-3:30 Room 461, Olympia NRB

Meeting Attendees: Mary McDonald, Maurice Williamson, Dennis Dart, Phil Hess, Sherry Fox, Carol Walters, Marc Engel, Jeff Galleher, Jeff Davis, Adrian Miller, Ken Miller, Mark Hicks, Steve McConnell (by phone), Dave Whipple, Dave Sweitzer, Jeffrey Thomas

Dennis Dart thanked everyone for their time and patience, the past few months have been very productive.

Legislative Reports

Carol Walters returned for a discussion regarding incentives for small landowners for the legislative report. The small landowner caucus had a list of suggestions;

A. Form Office of Conservation for Family Forest Landowners

- Recognition of good stewardship
- Deliver a carbon credit program
- Deliver tax incentives
- Develop statewide certification
- Coordinate cost share fund between state and federal governments
- Similar to Oregon Forest Resource Institute- to improve public understanding of forest resources and encourage sound forest practices

B. Small Forest Landowner Office

- Fund the Forest Riparian Easement Program
- Fund the Family Forest Fish Passage Program
- Staff for technical expertise assistance, develop templates, regulatory incentives, staff for AP monitoring, RMAP, technical info for policy work by RCW.

The question was asked as to why DNR SFLO couldn't handle section A. The answer from the landowner caucus was that the small forest landowners are looking for more advocacies than state employees can give. The landowner caucus supported that the suggested office be housed in the governor's office. The group also asked for more recognition for good stewardship for smalls and more dataset collection and analysis for use in the future. The group appreciated being involved in the process, and asked to be kept in the loop as the reports develop.

Harwood Conversion/Conifer Restoration Template Discussion

The Small Forest Landowner Caucus is interested in pursuing the creation of a template for Hardwood Conversions; it is currently an option in the Alternate Plan process. Field surveys will be done to gather information on 24 past Alternate Plans that were completed between 2003 and 2004. A draft of the evaluation criteria was presented to the group and suggestions/changes were made. The evaluation team will include of Jeff Galleher-DNR, Jenni Dykstra-WDFW, Ecology representative to be determined and a

small forest landowner representative. Sherry Fox suggested WA Farm Forestry Forester Steve Pederson be the landowner representative. She will also work on getting access to the sites from landowners. The information that results from the field surveys will be used when deciding how to pursue creating a Hardwood Conversion Template. The focus of the survey is to determine if hardwood conversion alternate plans were successful and what made the conifer establishment successful.

Next meeting is October 1st at 1:00.