

**Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee (SFLAC) Meeting
February 28, 2012
Natural Resource Building
Room 330**

Present: Vic Musselman (chair), David Overton, Ken Miller, Terry Jackson, Mark Hicks, Doug Hooks, Michelle Peterschick, and Marc Engel; Tammie Perreault and Jeffrey Thomas on phone

The meeting began with introductions and review of the meeting notes from the June 27, 2012 SFLAC Meeting. The group agreed to add clarifying language:

- In the descriptions of the requirements of the 20-acre exempt rule for fixed width buffers add “establish buffers by using the existing rules plus 15%, but if you do wish to do management within those buffers it is possible if you apply the shade rules.”
- In the SFLAC contact list, add the date to the bottom, and add alternate members for Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and Ecology.

The group reviewed and agreed to follow the ground rules for the SFLAC. Vic highlighted four areas to pay close attention to as we move forward as a committee and interact with each other:

1. Help others move tangent issues to appropriate venues by scheduling a time to discuss these issues later.
2. Acknowledge and appreciate the contributions of others, even when you disagree.
3. No idea is a bad idea.
4. Agree that timelines are to be met whenever possible. If a timeline is missed, make sure the SFLAC is aware of the change.

A reminder was also brought up that this body does not assign work to individuals. Individuals can volunteer to accept tasks, but recognize that each of us have our own agencies and workloads to manage outside of the group.

The group discussed the length for each meeting and at Vic’s direction agreed to a standard time for the meetings to be 4-6 hours in duration with some flexibility. He also requested each meeting agenda to be set three weeks before the meeting.

SFLO Staff Updates

The Small Forest Landowner Office hired a Landowner Assistance Wildlife Biologist, Ken Bevis. This is a statewide position that will be housed in Ellensburg, WA. The DNR was also interviewing for a Landowner Assistance Forester for the northern half of western Washington.

The group requested DNR to present a comprehensive overview of the duties performed by the SFLO field staff on a routine basis, and to present an overview of how the federal programs and state programs interface with each other.

Update on status of Forestry Riparian Easement Program funding

The Public Lands Commissioner has requested 10.3 million dollars for the Forestry Riparian Easement Program (FREP). The Gregoire budget showed funding for 3 million dollars. DNR is continuing to support the program, as this is their top priority Capital budget request.

The suggestion was brought up for the DNR to send out a notice to our subscriber list to promote the FREP funding through your legislature. This however, cannot be done because a state agency cannot lobby the legislature for funding.

DNR reported the purchase of forestry riparian easements were underway with the 1 million dollars of FREP funding for the 2011-2013 biennium. The SFLAC requested an updated list showing the current FREP queue.

Status report on HB 1600 (Viability of SFLOs)

Ken gave information regarding the status report of House Bill 1600. Ken stated that for the record WFFA did not initiate HB 1600. There was no hearing on the bill. Ken stated that they still believe the FFR legislation owes them small buffers for smaller harvesters. Vic stated that they don't believe that a bill like HB 1600 should take the place of FREP. They would like something to help compliment FREP to take some of the pressure off of the program.

Brainstorm preparation of 10- year SFLO RMAP Report

The group brainstormed ideas of how to get some data surrounding the status of small forest landowner's roads. The group agreed that one avenue is to interpret information from the checklist RMAP. The DNR asked that if they could get the time from a landowner assistance forester to do road inventories; would we get the support from WFFA and Tree Farm to encourage landowners to allow us to inventory their forest roads? Vic mentioned the possibility of bringing this idea of inventory to assess roads up at the Executive Committee to WFFA. Vic suggested some sort of informal agreement on liability limits written up between DNR and WFFA that would say this inventory is for informational purposes only. Tree farm volunteered that they may be able to help us through their volunteer inspector core.

SFLO Demographic Report

The group discussed the small forest landowner demographic report. Vic mentioned that the WFFA sent a letter to Tami Miketa about the report. Marc explained that a demographic report to the Legislature is required in statute. The statute specifically states what the Small Forest Landowner Office (SFLO) will report on.

Outreach Updates

Michelle updated the group on the progress of outreach within the Small Forest Landowner Office. The office is looking into multiple avenues of funding sources and how we can partner with some federal agencies. Michelle also talked about the Family Forest Expo that will be happening on March 23, 2013 and provided an update on the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP) outreach. Over the past year

the program has 22 newspapers articles statewide, a story on Q-13 Fox News, 3 radio interviews, and attended 15 landowner meetings. The amplified outreach efforts have resulted in four times as many applications that we had last year at this time. The program also launched a new video about the program that can be viewed at: www.dnr.wa.gov/fffpp. This year the FFFPP team co-hosted an open house with the Stillaguamish Tribe on a FFFPP project on Cherokee Creek to promote the program to neighboring landowners.

The Forestry Riparian Easement Program is creating a new application with instructions. The SFLO is assuring that the application will work properly in the online format. The SFLAC asked to preview the FREP brochure before it is final.

The website has been updated and we are continuing to make it as user-friendly as possible. The Alternate Plans tutorial should be online by the end of March.

Forest Practices Applications matrix of options

The long-term application matrix was discussed. Some suggestions were given to make improvements to the matrix. The group decided it would be helpful to include a notification application column, update the length of time column to include renewal times, add the review times for the application types, add the classes of FPAs, and a few other grammatical errors. The DNR will make the edits before the next advisory committee meeting in two months.

Brainstorm ways to get the news to SFLOs about the FPA process and Long-term Applications

The group revisited the topic of brainstorming ideas for ways to get the news to SFLOs about the FPA process and Long-term applications.

The group talked about updating the Long-term Applications brochure. The group thought that including a story in SFLO News in a testimonial format to encourage landowners to learn about the benefits of the application would be helpful. Making sure the process is simplified so people can understand why they would choose a long-term application vs. a Forest Practices Application. The Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee would like to have input in the brochure before its final.

Other Issues

How to improve SFLO compliance on 20-acre exempt FPAs

The group continued the discussion of how to achieve full compliance of SFLs to notify DNR 48 hours in advance of the commencement of harvest activities for their FPA. An idea was brought up to pass a law creating a financial liability for any landowner who fails to notify the DNR 48 hours in advance or who fail to identify DNR when they change the operator from the one identified on the FPA. Another idea is to also include a portion about this topic at the Washington Contract Logger Association Training.

Forest Practices Hydraulic Project rulemaking

Terry Jackson updated the group on how the process of integrating hydraulic projects into the forest practices rules is going. When the draft rules and board manual are presented for public comment it would be good for small forest landowners and SFLAC to review.