

Meeting Notes

Washington State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee WSU/Skagit County Extension Office, Burlington, WA Thursday, April 24, 2008; 1:00-4:00PM

I. Introductions, review of agenda, call for additional agenda items.

II. Program Review Update

Ray Abriel, USFS, updated the committee (via speaker phone) on the status of the 5-year program review of the Forest Stewardship Program. Most aspects of the review are complete, including written surveys of Committee members and consulting foresters across the state. In the next few months, all field Stewardship Foresters will complete an extensive written questionnaire and complete a live interview. A team will also review a random, statewide sample of Forest Stewardship Plans for completeness and compliance with guidelines for plan content.

III. Small Forest Landowners Office Update

Mary McDonald, SFLO Manager, briefly reviewed the current status of SFLO programs, including the extensive outreach re: the new Forest Practices Long Term Application Program now available to small forest landowners.

IV. State and Private Forestry Reinvention/Forest Stewardship Program Funding Update

Federal Funding:

As a part of S&PF Reinvention, states will increasingly be required to participate in an annual competitive grant process for funds that were previously distributed automatically based on a formula. 15% of current funding is competitive slated to increase to 65% over 5 years.

Considerable concern re: maintaining a sustainable base-level program with unsustainable funding.

State Funding:

All state funds for the Forest Stewardship Program were eliminated in 2003. This biennium, 4 FTE's were "restored" in the form of funding for Stewardship Foresters to provide landowner assistance re: the new Forest Practices Long Term Application Program.

V. Forest Legacy Program Update

Forest Legacy Program Manager, Bob Cannon, reviewed the status of current proposals with the group. He has been working directly with the members of the Forest Legacy Subcommittee.

VI. Agency/Organization Updates

Round table update from members present.

Coming events include:

Ties To The Land Workshops (several to be scheduled statewide by WSU Extension)

Regional Forest Owners Field Days: June 14 – Dayton, WA;
August 23 – Naselle, WA.

National Tree Farm Convention: Oct. 15-18 – Portland, OR.