

Small Forest Landowner Office Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

July 18, 2018

Present: John Henrikson, Tami Miketa, Chris Conklin, Rich Weiss, Jeffrey Thomas, Bill Kemp
Phil Hess – by phone.

Additional attendees: Ken Miller, Dave Sweitzer

John welcomed the newest members of the SFLOAC: Rich Weiss and Bill Kemp both representing WA Farm Forestry Association. They are replacing past SFLOAC members, Ken Miller and Vic Musselman.

Review May 16, 2018 SFLOAC Meeting Notes

Notes approved as written.

New Forestry Riparian Easement Foresters and Program Coordinator

Dan Pomerenk, the SFLO Conservation Easement Program Manager introduced Erin Baumgart and Norah Young, the new Forestry Riparian Easement Program (FREP) Foresters. Erin has been working in the Program for the last year but has not been introduced to the SFLOAC members. Dan also introduced the new FREP Coordinator, Brandon Austin. Brandon will begin in this new position on August 6th.

Updates on FREP/FFFPP

FREP Update

Dan updated the committee on the status of the FREP program. The Program is still receiving applications, about 30-40 each year. There have been no easements purchased yet this year because of the postponing of the Capital Budget and lack of staffing. Now that the Program is fully staffed (as of August 6th) and the funds are available, Dan is hoping to purchase 40 to 45 easements with the \$2.5 million allotment for this biennium.

The Committee requested that Dan provide the applicant waiting list for FREP compensation at each SFLOAC meeting.

Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program (R&HOSP) Update

Through the prioritization processes, 2 R&HOSP easements have been selected with the \$1 million allotment for this biennium. One easement is for the Channel Migration Zone and one easement is for the Critical Habitat of State Listed Threatened or Endangered Species.

FFFPP

Laurie Cox, the FFFPP Manager, was dispatched to a fire, so Tami gave the FFFPP update. In 2017, the FFFPP removed 17 fish barriers opening 44.5 miles of habitat. It is anticipated for the 2018 season, the FFFPP will remove 19 fish barriers opening an estimated 55.3 miles of habitat. To date, the FFFPP has removed 401 fish passage barriers opening 924 miles of habitat for fish.

The SFLOAC would like regular updates to the committee at each meeting regarding the status of the Forestry Riparian Easement Program and the Family Forest Fish Passage Program.

Logger Safety Initiative Presentation

Beth Covert, WA Dept. of Labor & Industries Program Specialist gave a presentation on the Logger Safety Initiative (LSI). The LSI is a program created to improve workplace safety and reduce workers' compensation costs for manual loggers. Prior to 2012, the manual logging industry experienced a steep increase in catastrophic injuries and fatalities. Between 2004 and 2012, there were 14 manual logging fatalities, 1,342 manual logging injury claims, vs. 1 mechanized logging fatality and 196 mechanized logging injury claims during this same time period. Consequently, in 2013 the LSI Taskforce was initiated to create a logger safety program.

LSI Goal

The Washington State Logger Safety Initiative, in partnership with private land owners, the Washington Contract Loggers Association, logging companies, the Washington Department of Natural Resources, and the Washington Department of Labor & Industries, will focus on ways to promote occupational safety, reduce the frequency and severity of workplace injuries and fatalities, increase proper reporting, and explore options for reducing costs, in an effort to create a culture of safety that is pervasive throughout the logging industry in Washington State.

LSI Objectives:

1. Create a Logger Safety program that establishes sector-wide standards for worker training, performance and supervision.
2. Establish a certification process for individual company safety programs to ensure compliance with sector-wide standards and review progress of logging operations through mandatory performance based audits.
3. To the extent practical, create an environment of shared learning that fosters honesty and rewards self-reporting of incidents.

For more information on the Logger Safety Initiative, contact Beth Covert at (360) 902-5607 or www.loggersafety@lni.wa.gov or visit the LSI website at LoggerSafety.org.

Discuss criteria for defining the term “relatively low impact on aquatic resources” regarding small forest landowner alternate management plans or alternate harvest restrictions

WAC 222-12-040(2) states: *The legislature has found in RCW 76.13.100(2) that small forest landowners should also have the option of alternate management plans or alternate harvest restrictions on smaller harvest units that may have a relatively low impact on aquatic resources. These alternate plans are intended to provide flexibility to small forest landowners that will still provide protection of riparian functions based on specific field conditions or stream conditions on the landowner's property.*

The Committee discussed what metrics to use to determine what defines “relatively low impact” on aquatic resources when applying the option of alternate management plans or alternate harvest restrictions on smaller harvest units. Some points/ideas that were raised:

- Highlight less costly regulatory prescriptions
- RCW 76.13.110 references a demographic report to be submitted to the legislature every 4 years. In this report, estimates of the number of small forest landowners are divided into specific acreage categories:

- 20 acres or less
- 21 to 100 acres
- 101-1,000 acres
- 1,001 to 5,000 acres

One thought that was brought to the attention of the Committee is to use these smaller acreage categories (10 to 100 acres) to define “relatively low impact”.

Ken Miller distributed a document which identifies criteria that could be used to help determine ‘relatively low impact’. Some criteria identified are:

- Smaller streams
- Seasonal Type F streams
- Obstructions in the RMZ
- Low gradient intermittent streams
- Individual tree, group selection, or small patch cuts
- Hardwood conversion
- Forest health situations

The Committee agreed to review this document and have further discussion at the next Advisory Committee meeting.

Historical information regarding the SFL Class I Checklist

Phil Hess presented a document created in July 2005 that proposes to modify WAC 222-16-050 language to allow a Class 1 Forest Practice activity` to include the harvest of up to 20,000 board feet of timber in any 12 month period. The Committee will discuss this concept at the next Small Forest Landowner Office Advisory Committee meeting.

Action Plan Update

No update to the Action Plan at this meeting.

SFLOAC remaining meeting schedule for 2018

The following dates were established for the remaining SFLOAC meetings for 2018. All meetings will be from 12:00 to 4:00 at the NRB in Olympia:

Sept. 19 Nov. 7

The next SFLOAC meeting will be held on September 19, 2018 from 12:00 to 4:00 at the NRB in Room 362.

Meeting Adjourned