

WILDLAND FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

7/25/2018

DNR NE Region Armory

225 South Silke Road

Colville, WA

**Committee Members Present:**

Cody Desautel – Tribal Nations Representative  
Gary Berndt – Wildland Fire Liaison, Chair  
Dave Johnson – Fire Commissioner – *conference call*  
Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt – State Land Trust Beneficiary  
Tony Craven – Small Forest Landowner  
J.D. Marshall – Industry Landowner (Timber)  
Rodney Smoldon – Federal Fire Agency  
Dave LaFave – Fire Chief (Westside) – *conference call*  
Lee Hemmer – Industry Landowner (Range)  
Melissa Gannie – Assistant State Fire Marshal – *conference call*

**Committee Members Absent:**

Joe Gardner – County Commissioner (Westside)  
Jim DeTro – County Commissioner (Eastside)  
Chuck LeBlanc – State Fire Marshal  
Tom Bugert – Statewide Environmental Representative  
Randy Johnson – Fire Chief (Eastside)

**Guests/Other Attendees:**

George Geissler – DNR Wildfire Deputy and State Forester  
Loren Torgerson – Wildfire Policy Advisor – *conference call*  
Ken Elliott – Wildfire Division  
Chuck Turley – Wildfire Division Manager  
Vernon Sterns – Fuels Manager, Spokane Tribe – *conference call*  
Karen Arnold – Wildfire Assistant Division Manager – *conference call*  
Marc Daudon – The Caspian Group – *conference call*  
Mary Valladares – Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal – *conference call*  
Ken McNamee – DNR Northeast Region Manager  
Bob McKeller – DNR Northeast Assistant Regional Manager, State Lands

**I. Opening, Roll Call**

Chair Berndt call the meeting of the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee to order at 10:00 a.m. on July 25th, 2018 in Colville, WA.

## **II. George Geissler, State Forester and Deputy Supervisor Wildfire Division**

Wildfire Deputy George Geissler provided a brief update of expectations to keep WFAC involved, and stated he will attend future WFAC meetings as much as possible.

## **III. Approval of Minutes**

Chair Berndt called for approval of the minutes from the June 27th, 2018 committee meeting. Committee member J.D. Marshall moved to approve the minutes, Committee member Lee Hemmer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **IV. DNR/WSP Update**

- a.** Melissa Gannie, from the State Fire Marshal's office gave an update on 2018 state mobilizations as of 7/25/2018 at 13 events with a cost of approximately \$3 million. WSP is budgeted to anticipate \$4 million per year and is anticipating to exceed current allotted funds.
- b.** Lee Hemmer provided an update on Rangeland Fire Protection with ongoing efforts and potential legislation upcoming to provide authorization. There was discussion on the 4 items that were focused on by the "Arid Lands Institute" where RFLPA, Fire District Annexation, New Fire District Formation and DNR provides protection for non-timbered lands were all explored.
- c.** Loren Torgerson presented a new "slide deck" of the Strategic Plan that will be developed over the next 30 days or so. Loren asked WFAC members to review and add/modify with a response directly to Loren by 8/2/2018. The first draft of the plan will begin to be developed and will be provided to the WFAC prior to the 8/22/2018 meeting. A key focus was on the guidance recommended on the "risk management" slide. Another key focus was on the "plan duration" slide, where there is no set date specifically, just keep the plan up to date.
- d.** Chuck Turley gave a DNR update. He spoke about current fires in WA, and that the number of fires on DNR protected lands are around 850 per year. At the current rate, DNR will hit that number by the end of July. The current approach is to hit fires early and hard with pre-positioned resources, including aviation. Pre-positioning has been key so far this year, with lots of new starts that have been contained. To date, DNR has only had 1 type 1 or 2 fire, where Oregon currently has 8 or 9. Lightning is expected in Oregon and Washington through the weekend of 7/27-7/29/2018.
- e.** Wildfire Assistant Division Manager Karen Arnold did a PowerPoint presentation, providing an update on the effort to update, simplify and streamline the programs and align with other agencies' programs currently within "Wildfire". She indicated that there were approximately 80 programs currently.

## **V. Chairman Report**

Chairman Berndt presented a written report of activities since the May WFAC meeting to current.

**VI. New Business**

Cody Desautel gave a report on the recent meeting of the Climate Alliance, where there was a discussion concerning climate change and carbon storage. There is a meeting scheduled in California on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 as well as a meeting in mid-August in WA to prep for the meeting in CA. Cody will provide updates as the Alliance develops recommendations, starting in the September WFAC meeting.

**VII. Chairman Report**

Chairman Berndt presented a written report of activities since the May WFAC meeting to current.

**VIII. New Business**

Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt and Tony Craven gave a report on the 7/24/2018 field day that was reviewing the USFS “A-Z” project and the GNA “Block of Nine”. Russ commented that a concern now is the lack of expertise in logging and the challenge will be better training for the future.

**IX. Adjournment and Next Meeting**

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 1:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held at the Southeast Regional Office in the large conference room, 713 Bowers Rd, Ellensburg on Wednesday, August 22, 2018.