

**Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**August 20, 2014**

In attendance: Vic Musselman, Ken Miller, Phil Hess (by phone), Terry Jackson, Mark Hicks, Tami Miketa, Tammie Perreault (by phone), Doug Hooks

Committee reviewed the SFLAC meeting notes from June 25, 2014. No comments/edits were recommended.

**New FREP Application and Program Information**

Dan Pomerenk provided an overview of the new FREP Application and Program Information document. In 2009, through HB 1509, the legislature made changes to the Forestry Riparian Easement Program and the Forest Practices Board adopted new rules for FREP. One change that was made was the removal of the requirement for landowners to submit a Harvest Status Questionnaire after a FREP Application is submitted. Now, only a FREP Application is required to be submitted, and is still a one page application. There is now an additional three page Program Information document accompanying the application. This document helps explain the FREP application process, and provides more detail about program eligibility, and how applications are processed.

A FREP brochure is also available to be viewed on the SFLO website, but there has not been enough funding in the program to publish it.

The SFLAC had concerns that the concept of FREP compensation due to Uneconomic to Harvest was not sufficiently identified in the application. Dan agreed to add to the Program Information form wording that states:

*For more information regarding eligibility criteria, easement value determination, and uneconomic to harvest determination; please contact the Small Forest Landowner Office. We may be reached by phone at (360) 902-1427 or (360) 902-1494 via email at [sflo@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:sflo@dnr.wa.gov).*

The SFLAC will review the FREP Application and Program Information document and provide comments (if any) back to Dan by COB Friday August 22.

**FREP Update:**

The program recently hired an additional staff person, Matt Provencher, to help with identifying qualifying timber, administering the cruise contracts, and processing FREP easements. Matt comes from the Forest Practices Compliance Monitoring program and will be a great addition to the FREP program. With this additional staffing, the program hopes to get caught up on all easement valuations that are on the FREP list by the end of June 2017. Thereafter, it is anticipated that easements can be valued immediately upon receipt of a FREP Application.

The program is hoping to get 25 easements purchased this year. This is still an estimate as not all easements have been valued at this time.

The program has been getting approximately 25-30 easement applications per year, which is an increase from about 15 applications per year in previous years. There are now approximately 120 forestry riparian easement applications on the list for compensation.

### **Alternate Plan Review**

Tami recently completed a 5 year review of all approved small forest landowner alternate plans from March 2009 to March 2014 (see attached summary).

A total of 445 Alternate Plans were approved for small forest landowners from 3/31/2009 to 3/31/2014 with the majority of them (57%) using the Fixed Width Buffer Template.

The use of the Fixed Width Buffer template has increased every year since its creation in 2009 (from 8% of total number of alternate plans in 2009 to 69% of total number of alternate plans in 2013).

There are a very low number of applicants submitting monitoring strategies: 15 of 127 non-template alternate plans (12%). This does not assume monitoring strategies were not submitted, they may not have been entered into the FPAR system.

In 2009 the majority of small forest landowner alternate plans were Non-Template Alternate Plans (72%). From 2010-2014 the dominant number of alternate plans were Template Alternate Plans (up to 81% in 2014).

The largest number of small forest landowner alternate plans from 2009-2014 were in Lewis County (76 plans), Grays Harbor County (65 plans), and Clark County (50 plans).

From 2009 to 2014 the largest number of alternate plans within a particular Watershed Administrative Unit (WAU) was the Yacolt WAU in Clark County with 16 plans.

The SFLAC believes this is excellent information and would like to have this review annually and then look every 5 years at the trends. Tami said this would be workable. She will present to the SFLAC annual reviews of Alternate Plans in January of every year, and every 5 years she will provide information regarding trends.

### **Updated FPA/N Forms & Instructions**

Donelle Mahan and Brook Acosta, from the Forest Practices Operations Section, gave a presentation on the updated FPA/N forms & instructions that includes additional information required regarding assessments of slope stability, channel migration zones, and stream shade, as well as additional information required for Forest Practices Hydraulic Projects (FPHP).

There are unstable slopes flowcharts available for viewing on the Forest Practices main webpage. These flow charts are intended to help landowners understand the slope stability assessment process.

Small forest landowners need technical assistance to help address slope stability, CMZ, and stream shade issues among a myriad of other forest practices processes. Additional staffing in the SFLO to help landowners address these issues would be a great service for landowners.

**Other Business**

The small forest landowner caucus is working on a low impact template, and currently following the processes that are required.

Meeting adjourned

Next SFLAC meeting is October 29<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 4:00 in room 461.