

**Small Forest Landowner Office Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Notes**  
**January 19, 2021**  
**Zoom Meeting**

Present: John Henrikson, Tami Miketa, Phil Hess, Rich Weiss, Brandon Austin, Bill Kemp, Jeffrey Thomas, Mary McDonald

Additional Attendees: Elaine O’Neil and Ken Miller, WFFA  
Marc Engel and Dan Hohl, DNR

**Review November 17, 2020 SFLAC Meeting Notes**

Accepted as written.

**SFLO Program Updates**

Tami discussed the SFLO Program updates and budget. For the 2021 Legislative Session, in the Governor and Legislature Budgets the Capital Programs received additional funding as follows:

- Forestry Riparian Easement Program received \$5.762 million (last biennium FREP received \$3.5 million).
- Family Forest Fish Passage program received \$5.957 million (last biennium FFFPP received \$5 million).
- Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program received \$3.04 million (last biennium RHOSP received \$1 million).

The Governor’s Budget also included \$200,000 to provide technical assistance to small forest landowners. This would allow the SFLO to hire one additional Regulation Assistance Forester next biennium. It is still unknown if the Legislature’s budget will include this additional funding.

The Forestry Riparian Easement Program has purchased 26 easements to date, and are on target to purchase 12 additional easements by the end of the biennium (June 20, 2021).

**Discussion on University of Washington’s ESB 5330 Report**

The Committee discussed the recently published report from the University of Washington titled “*Washington’s Small Forest Landowners in 2020, Status, Trends and Recommendations after 20 years of Forests and Fish*”. This report showed the results of updated small forest landowner demographic data, as well as trends and policy analyses and included recommendations to improve mitigation measures for small forest landowners and improve retention of working forestland held by small forest landowners.

Elaine O’Neil stated that WFFA will be asking for a Legislative Work Session regarding this report and has invited the authors of the report to give talks at WFFA Chapter Meetings. All in all the report has good social science and a good trend analysis.

It was also discussed that some small forest landowners don’t even know they are in the classification of “small forest landowner” and may not fit the goals and interests of WFFA, but the report represents the findings of small forest landowners as a whole.

It was also noted that some small forest landowners don't know that a Fixed Width Buffer is an alternate plan. FPA's are complex.

The report showed there are more small forest landowners, but less small forest land, which speaks to parcelization occurring, and suggests that there is continued conversion of small forest land statewide.

The Committee did not sense any bias in the report and that it made a solid effort to control bias. They did not have any major objections and felt the report was good work.

The Committee agreed on recommendations to insert in to the DNR's 2020 Small Forest Landowner Demographic Report which is due out by the SFLO the end of March 2021. Their recommendations were:

1. Provide additional and secure funding for the Small Forest Landowner Office.
2. Support policies that increase forest cover.
3. Expand the Designated Forestland (DFL) taxation rules to include forest health and wildfire resiliency best practices.
4. Provide additional funding for the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP).
5. Provide additional funding for the Forestry Riparian Easement Program (FREPP)
6. Consider Forest Practices Regulations as a tool for small forest landowner outreach.

The Committee asked the SFLO what is the status of the Proposal Initiation Document (PID) for defining the term "relatively low impact" alternate plan? The SFLO believed the Committee wanted to hold off on any movement with the PID until decisions were made in the Policy Work Group who are working on two proposed small forest landowner alternative harvest prescriptions. This topic will be discussed at the next SFLAC meeting in March.

The next SFLAC meeting will be a Zoom meeting on March 18, 2021, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Meeting Adjourned