

Small Forest Landowner Office Advisory Committee Meeting
Notes
November 17, 2020
Zoom Meeting

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

Additional Attendees: Ken Miller and Tony Cramer, WFFA
Marc Engel, Jack Armstrong, Dan Hohl, and Norah Young, DNR

Review September 22, 2020 SFLAC Meeting Notes

Accepted as written.

SFLO Program Updates

Tami discussed the SFLO Program updates and budget. The agency has been asked to submit a budget to the Office of Financial Management that includes a 15% budget decrease. This would include staff layoffs. It is uncertain if this budget will be implemented.

Rich commented that he was disappointed that the DNR's budget request did not include additional staffing for the SFLO.

Tami announced that Norah Young, our Conservation Easement Program Specialist will be leaving the SFLO and taking a position as a Silviculturist with private industry. Her last day at DNR will be November 19th. Tami noted that we will be asking to fill this vacancy as soon as possible.

Forestry Riparian Easement Program Presentation

Norah gave a presentation on the Forestry Riparian Easement Program (FREP) and the Rivers and Habitat Open Space program (RHOSP).

FREP is a 50 year conservation easement on standing timber only, it compensates landowners for trees required to be left by Forests & Fish Rules, there is an option to reimburse for some costs, and it is on a first come, first serve basis. Eligible landowners are for-profit, non-governmental small forest landowner (harvest less than 2 MMBF/year on average), they must not be eligible for the 20 acre exempt rules, have no encumbrances on their property, it must not be a conversion harvest, and must have a FPA & completed harvest or disapproved FPA (based on Forests & Fish Rules). A total of 404 easements have been purchased equaling \$31M to landowners. Easement values range from \$800 to \$830,000 and the easement size ranges from ¼ to 172 acres. There are currently 138 applications on the waiting list.

RHOSP compensates landowners for trees left in unconfined channel migration zones or critical habitat for state listed threatened or endangered species. It is a lifetime conservation easement on private property and is funded based on a prioritization process. Eligible landowners are non-governmental landowners and the land must be taxed as forest land. A total of 21 easements have been purchased equaling \$6.1 million to landowners. Easement values range from \$11,000 to \$1.4 million, and easement size ranges from 5 to 300+ acres

There were 8 applications for FY19-21biennium.

Continue Discussion on Concept of Relatively Low Impact Harvest Prescriptions

More discussion was on John Henrikson's document titled "Managing Riparian Forests for Desired Future Condition (DFC)" that showed specific scenarios that could apply as "relatively low impact" per the Committee's definition. He identified specific recommended steps to create a better outcome in the riparian area that would apply across all situations. He then followed with three typical site conditions that would have a common treatment prescription. The committee discussed the recommended steps and each of the site conditions.

Ken Miller and Marc Engel also provided the status of two proposed experimental harvest prescriptions that are being worked on in Policy. The two prescriptions are for RMZ thinning and Conifer Restoration and are templates for small forest landowners.

John stated that we should wait to move forward with the Committee's definition of a relatively low impact harvest prescription until decisions are made in Policy regarding template proposals.

The next SFLAC meeting will be a Zoom meeting on January 19, 2021, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Meeting Adjourned