

## SMALL FOREST LANDOWNER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Notes October 22, 2024

Present:

WA. Farm Forestry Association (WFFA) representatives: Chair: John Henrikson, Bill Kemp, Phil Hess

Tribal Representative: Not in attendance

WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) representative: Brandon Austin

WA Dept. of Ecology (DOE) representative: Chris Briggs

DNR: Karen Zirkle, Tami Miketa

Additional attendees:

DNR: Holly Haley, Todd Olson, Tom Chandler, Noah Nequette, Daniel Hevezi, John Schmeltz, Eric McDougal, Hollis Crapo, Nick Braun

### Review 07/23/2024 SFLAC Meeting Notes

Accepted as written.

### SFLO & SFLAC Updates

Phil Hess, Eastside WFFA SFLAC representative is going to be leaving the Advisory Committee. He is currently looking for someone interested in filling the position. WFFA Executive Director must submit, to the Commissioner of Public Lands, two candidates for the position and the Commissioner will select the candidate.

The Small Forest Landowner Office have available a new Alternate Plan Brochure and an updated FREP Brochure reflecting the legislative changes to the Program.

The Small Forest Landowner Office has completed a 2024 DRAFT Small Forest Landowner Demographic Report which is required by statute to be completed every four years. [RCW 76.13.110](#) requires

*(5) By December 1, 2002, the small forestland owner office shall provide a report to the board and the legislature containing:*

*(a) Estimates of the amounts of nonindustrial forests and woodlands in holdings of twenty acres or less, twenty-one to one hundred acres, one hundred to one thousand acres, and one thousand to five thousand acres, in western Washington and eastern Washington, and the number of persons having total nonindustrial forest and woodland holdings in those size ranges;*

*(b) Estimates of the number of parcels of nonindustrial forests and woodlands held in contiguous ownerships of twenty acres or less, and the percentages of those parcels containing improvements used: (i) As primary residences for half or more of most years; (ii) as vacation homes or other temporary residences for less than half of most years; and (iii) for other uses;*

*(c) The watershed administrative units in which significant portions of the riparian areas or total land area are nonindustrial forests and woodlands;*

*(d) Estimates of the number of forest practices applications and notifications filed per year for forest road construction, silvicultural activities to enhance timber growth, timber harvest not associated with conversion to non-forestland uses, with estimates of the number of acres of nonindustrial forests and woodlands on which forest practices are conducted under those applications and notifications; and*

*(e) Recommendations on ways the board and the legislature could provide more effective incentives to encourage continued management of nonindustrial forests and woodlands for forestry uses in ways that better protect salmon, other fish and wildlife, water quality, and other environmental values.*

*(f) A description of particular trends; whether, how, and to what extent the forest practices act and rules contributed to those trends; and whether, how, and to what extent: (i) The Board and legislature implemented recommendations made in the previous report; and (ii) implementation of or failure to implement those recommendations affected those trends.*

The WA Forestland Database is the only database that estimates of the amounts of nonindustrial forests and woodlands, the number of parcels of nonindustrial forests and woodlands held in contiguous ownerships of twenty acres or less and identifies particular trends. This database was updated in 2019, thus there is no updated information since the 2020 SFL Demographic Report.

### **Signing of the SFLAC Charter**

DNR's Forest Regulation Administrative Assistant sent out the SFLAC Charter to the AC members asking to sign via DocuSign.

### **EFREP and Categorical Alder Exemption Proposals**

John stated these are two proposals that are proactive plans to manage the riparian management zone for habitat AND carbon. These would be perpetual easements where the landowner can get paid for the production of carbon. DNR controls the plan through the alternate plan process. John would like to hear from the Committee if there are any concerns about these two proposals.

#### **EFREP**

Chris said he understands that the landowner would get paid yearly for tree growth each year, but asked how is this measured? Need to review the Carbon Work Group Report where University of Washington has developed useable tools.

Brandon asked if there is a baseline inventory. Yes, it would be a FREP type cruise  
Both Brandon and Chris are on board conceptually but would need to see a clear benefit to habitat, and proof that the desired future condition is accelerated.

Chris likes the annual incentive-based plan, but he said there would need to be a higher level of compliance oversight. Monitoring needs to be consistent across the state and needs to be very robust. A well written management plan would be absolutely necessary.

This proposal would apply to any regulatory restricted area such as sensitive sites, unstable slopes, etc.

#### **Categorical Alder Exemption**

John explains this is proposal would be a promotion of full alder removal. This would be a proposed rule change and would need to go through the Adaptive Management Program.

There is a need to have clear expectations and consequences. This could be a challenge in areas where other rules are in place, and there are site specific complexities. Brandon and Chris believe a categorically exemption would be a hard sell. It may be a good idea to conduct a literature synthesis or have a CMER study or add Riparian Management Recommendations to the WDFW Priority Habitats and Species document.

**FREP Board Manual status**

Sec. 17 of the Board Manual which cover the Forestry Riparian Easement Program is in draft form. The Work Group will be conducting its last workshop this week on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>. Thereafter, we hope to have a final draft that can be sent to the Forest Practices Board and be approved at the next Forest Practices meeting on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for putting such time and dedication to the creation of this important Board Manual.

**Update Action Plan**

The Action Plan was updated and is attached.

**Set SFLAC meeting dates for 2025**

The following dates are set for the Advisory Committee meetings in 2025. All will be 9:00 to 1:00 on TEAMS and in the NRB in Room 382:

January 21	July 15
April 15	October 21

Meeting adjourned