

Small Forest Landowner Office Advisory Committee Meeting
Notes
March 18, 2021
Zoom Meeting

Present: John Henrikson, Tami Miketa, Phil Hess, Rich Weiss, Brandon Austin, Bill Kemp, Jeffrey Thomas, Mary McDonald
Additional Attendees: Ken Miller, WFFA
Marc Engel and Dan Hohl, DNR

Review January 19, 2021 SFLAC Meeting Notes

Accepted as written.

SFLO Program Updates

Tami discussed the SFLO Program updates and budget.

The Forestry Riparian Easement Program purchased 30 easements to date, and are on target to purchase 6 additional easements by the end of the biennium (June 20, 2021).

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program corrected 27 fish barriers this biennium opening 165 miles of habitat for fish.

The Rivers and Habitat OpenSpace Program is poised to purchase 2 conservation easements this biennium, one channel migration zone and one critical habitat for state listed threatened or endangered species.

The Road Assessment Project has almost 150 landowners who are willing to have their roads assessed and have conducted 74 assessments to date covering 13 counties.

The SFLO has a new Conservation Easement Program Manager, Dan Hohl, who will manage the Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program and the timber cruise contracts for both conservation easement programs.

Tami also discussed the 2020 Small Forest Landowner Demographic Report and will send a draft of the document to the Committee to review.

Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee Presentation

John Henrikson gave a quick update on the Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee. The committee reviewed the science and methodology for measuring carbon, and evaluated existing programs. There was no discussion about new systems. They also discussed the barriers to landowner participation. There is still a fundamental inability for small landowners to participate in carbon compensation programs. However, a Washington Tree Farm Program Committee identified four pathways that may be taken:

1. Look at a carbon sequestration pilot project which compensates landowners on a short term basis and identifies what practices to take today to increase carbon and pay accordingly.
2. Use set asides (such as RMZ's) to grow carbon.
3. Extend timber rotations.
4. Reforestation – plant trees in areas that are currently non-forested.

Alternate Harvest Prescriptions

Ken briefed the Committee on the status of the Small Forest Landowner Low Impact Thinning Template proposal. This proposal combines DFC options 1 and 2 where there is narrower RMZ buffers as well as the ability to thin in the RMZ. In the Policy Committee two work groups have been formed. One group is assessing the impact of RMZ buffer widths of 75', 50' and 25'. The other work group is looking at other potential harvest prescriptions. One prescription is a westside thinning prescription and the other is a westside conifer restoration prescription. Phil Hess stressed the need to address the eastside.

The Committee discussed what is needed to identify a proper functioning RMZ and what is the cost to the landowner. The Committee supports directing the effort through the Policy Committee to reach that goal. The Committee stressed the need to have a prescription that works for the landowner and to ensure a proper functioning RMZ. CMER will monitor the prescriptions to ensure the RMZ is functioning properly with these prescriptions.

Discussion on Proposal Initiation Document for defining the term “relatively low impact” alternate plan

Tami discussed the status of the Proposal Initiation Document for defining the term “relatively low impact” alternate plan. There is still more work to be completed on the document. The Committee will provide additional comments to be discussed at the May SFLAC meeting.

Update Action Plan

The Committee updated the Action Plan to reflect current action items.

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

Meeting Adjourned