

**Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
December 16, 2014**

In attendance: Vic Musselman, Ken Miller, Phil Hess (by phone), Tammie Perreault (by phone), Jeffrey Thomas (by phone), Dick Miller, Terry Jackson, Tami Miketa, Marc Engel (portion of time), Heather Hansen (portion of time)

Committee reviewed and approved the SFLAC notes from the October 29, 2014 meeting.

Western Gray Squirrel Voluntary Management Approach

Terry Jackson, Penny Becker, and Gary Bell (all with WDFW) gave a presentation on western gray squirrel natural history, distribution, threats to the species, legal status, and protection measures. There is a need to gather more information on the current distribution of western gray squirrels in Washington through the use of hair tubes, mark and recapture studies, and the use of volunteer time.

There are no Forest Practices Rules for protection of western gray squirrels and their habitat. They discussed the western gray squirrel voluntary management approach for landowners. This is a much better method for landowners instead of rulemaking. WDFW would like to see an increased outreach effort to small forest landowners specifically within Klickitat County regarding this voluntary management approach.

Overview of Draft WFFA SFL Smaller Buffer Template

Dick Miller presented the guiding criteria used to create the prescriptions in the SFL Smaller Buffer Template. Those criteria were:

1. Prescriptions are supported by the best available science.
2. RMZ's are important. The harvestable areas within RMZ's are small compared to the upland area.
3. RMZ's are variable in topography, stocking, ages. Prescriptions must be site specific.
 - a. Type F Streams can range from less than 5 feet to more than 25 feet. Hence the no cut buffer width depends on stream width.
 - b. There are a number of Np streams that are intermittent and have seasonal flow.
4. Prescriptions need to be based on the landowner's management objective.

This draft template gives landowners more flexibility in managing within the RMZ.

Next step: WFFA will bring forward the template to the Forest Practices Board in February and ask for the template to go through the adaptive management process.

Discuss potential agenda items for the SFLAC/TFW Cultural Resources Roundtable joint meeting.

The SFLAC suggested the following topics to discuss at the SFLAC/TFWCCR joint meeting:

1. How to make small forest landowners more aware of what the CRR has accomplished to date.
2. What are the needs of the CRR in regard to small forest landowners
3. Common existing goals between CRR and the SFLAC.
4. Brainstorm who may be a good candidate to represent small forest landowners on the TFW CRR.
5. What programs are available that small forest landowners can use to help identify archaeological sites on their lands?
6. Establish an efficient and cost effective method for small forest landowners to preserve these sites.
7. Ways to prevent loss of working small forest lands to conversion.

Vic will write a memo to the chairs of the TFW CCR outlining these potential discussion topics, and request a meeting to help finalize the agenda.

2015 SFLAC Meetings:

March 26
May 5
July 7
September 9
November 11

Meeting adjourned