

**Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee Meeting  
Notes  
March 26, 2015**

**In attendance:** Vic Musselman, Ken Miller, Mark Hicks, Terry Jackson, Dick Miller, Chris Hanlon-Meyer (portion of time), Marc Engel, Phil Hess (by phone), Tammie Perreault (by phone)

**Review of December 14, 2014 meeting notes**

Terry suggested one change to the section on fishers:

Remove wording: “This is a much better method for landowners instead of rulemaking.”

Replace with: “This method is preferred over rule-making if it is successful in adequately protecting the species-at-risk.”

Committee concurred

No other changes were suggested.

**Update on Fisher CCAA and brainstorm ways to reach out to SFLOs**

WDFW is working with WFPA and small forest landowners on conservation measures for fishers, through a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA). The primary conservation measures include:

- Provide WDFW access to landowner’s property to monitor fishers that may move onto property and their active den sites.
- Protect fishers and their confirmed den sites by preventing harm, disturbance or destruction, which means to prevent forest practices activities or disturbance activities within 0.25 miles of the active den site.

WDFW recently wrote a newsletter article for the SFL News to solicit landowner participation in CCAA’s. The SFLAC members offered to review and provide comment on the newsletter. They will provide Terry feedback by April 2.

**Update on Western Gray Squirrel**

WDFW is currently reviewing the listing status of the western gray squirrel. They are asking for information from landowners regarding population demographics and habitat presence to determine if a status change is warranted.

In May, WDFW will provide an interim report to the Forest Practices Board about tracking of Forest Practices Applications and the success of the implementation of the voluntary management approach for western gray squirrels.

### **Discussion on compensating SFLOs for the cost of Geo-Technical reports when applying for FREP on unstable slopes**

The SFLAC invited Dan Pomerenk, DNR SFLO Conservation Easement Specialist, to discuss how small forest landowners can get compensation for geotechnical reports on unstable slopes through the Forestry Riparian Easement Program (FREP).

The most common method that small forest landowners are using regarding addressing unstable slopes is avoidance. The only procedural change in place now is that the landowner must complete a field form that explains what they saw, and what type of mitigation measures were put in place.

There may be some times when DNR will ask for more “geologic information” – this does not necessitate a full geotechnical report to be completed. Also, this information can be provided by anyone – not just a geologist. However, if a landowner needs to hire a geologist to provide this information, DNR could, as part of the FREP compensation, reimburse the landowner for the cost of the geologist time (as long as the unstable landform is adjacent to qualifying timber under the FREP).

The SFLAC asked if Dan would write a newsletter article that outlined the steps landowners can take in their application for FREP to get compensation for geologist expertise or geotechnical reports. This is only for geotechnical reports associated with FPAs for funded FREP applications. Dan said he would be happy to do that.

### **Brainstorming session on sources of grants to help fund SFLO work and update RTI database of forest landowners**

To update the RTI forestland database, it would cost approximately \$150,000 just for the update. If a trend analyses is needed, this would cost more.

Terry brought up the NRCS’s Regional Conservation Partners Program – Grants are funded on a National, State, and Critical Conservation Area basis. Grants must have established partners and meet specific goals and priorities..

It is very difficult for state government to be eligible for grants. Some of the best potential for grants is through foundations. The Ford Foundation or the Bullitt Foundation for instance.

Need to prioritize what we want accomplished through a grant, then determine what partnerships should be created.

SFLAC believes that technical assistance for landowners should be the prime focus for grants. The best method may be to partner with a certification entity to promote forest stewardship, sustainability, and help reduce fragmentation.

It was mentioned that it might be a good idea if WFFA/WDFW were to partner on a small grant for financial support toward the creation of voluntary management plans for western gray squirrels.

The SFLO will continue to brainstorm ways to partner with WFFA or other entities for grants.

**Open discussion on whether we should have an NRCS representative come talk to us at the May meeting**

The SFLAC would like to invite entities that offer grant opportunities to discuss what these opportunities entail. Vic will contact a NRCS representative and invite them to the next SFLAC meeting to discuss resources available as well as potential grant opportunities.

**Update on scheduling of joint SFLAC / TFWCRR meeting and other business**

On January 14, 2015, Vic, as chair of the SFLAC, sent a letter to the co-chairs of the TFW Cultural Resources Roundtable (TFWCRR) regarding agenda topics that may be considered important to both parties for a joint meeting.

Meeting adjourned