

FFAC Synthesis Group Meeting Notes – February 27, 2008

Subcommittee Objectives

Summary: The Subcommittee synthesizes and integrates FFAC work and materials for the purpose of producing the final FFAC report to the Board of Forestry. This includes development of the format and detailed outline for the report. In addition, another important role of the Subcommittee is to reexamine information and develop new or alternative proposals for FFAC consideration.

Time is of essence

- Losing infrastructure (mill, rail)
- Fire hazard
- Governor must be champion / next administration continue

Concise/Fewer outcomes

Keeping work at the 30,000 foot level

Summary: The FFAC report (assessment/analysis and recommendations) should be focused on policy rather than management, operational, or legal details. It should be direct and to the point. The Subcommittee will set the tone for this approach through its proposals/recommendations to the FFAC. The Subcommittee will discuss how to achieve this.

Level of Detail similar to that in Montana Restoration Report

- Find out what is going on in Montana/projects. Are projects being implemented?
- Eco-region approach (assessments, restoration)

Need to separate scales in Report

- National (policy), State (eco region), local strategies (infrastructure)

Concentrate recommendations on forest restoration

Identify potential CE's for restoration projects to reduce cost / budget

Short term – Funding needed

Long-term – Self-sustaining – create wealth

- Structure – reorg
- IP state opportunities for funds
- Renewable energy

Work toward the desired condition

Seven, five or fewer problems: What are the most crucial, pressing problems?

Summary: If forested landscapes continue to go untreated, losses from wildfire and insects will devastate vast expanses of forest; everyone loses. What should our efforts be focused on? Will

the solution of two or three key problems lead to the solution of others? The Subcommittee will discuss this approach and which problems are most important

Reorganize and combine problems. Move “budget” and “process to coordinate policy decisions” to overarching problems.

Physical Issues

1. Natural process (most serious, immediate problem)
 - Implication for private forests and county governments
2. Timber/Infrastructure
 - Should we frame this as reduced restoration infrastructure
 - Take post-fire logging (salvage) off the table?
3. Older Forests (point of disagreement)
 - In general, no harvest of OG except . . .
 - Work toward the desired future condition
 - What do we want the landscape to look like?

Admin Issues – Overarching Problems (National Issues)

1. Legal framework court decisions
 - Get past litigation
2. Changing public values – trust
3. Coordinate policy decisions
4. Funding

Partitioning problems and recommendations

Summary: The Subcommittee will discuss the pros and cons of partitioning assessments/analyses and recommendations by (1) west side and east side, and (2) BLM and Forest Service.

Subcategories may be needed

- E. W. OR, FS - BLM
- Range – Juniper

Look for recommendations to create efficiencies across federal/state/local government

- Potentially recommend pilot projects
 - * State management of fed lands?
 - * Combine adj. fed offices
 - * Combine functions (fire, roads) between agencies/state/local/feds
 - * Congress authority to Lakeview Coop./Quincy library like

Integrating Subcommittee and FFAC work

Summary: The Subcommittee will develop an inventory of what tasks/issues/questions need to be addressed in order to complete the FFAC report. In addition, the Subcommittee will develop a schedule for completing this work including future Subcommittee and FFAC meetings. There is a possibility more FFAC meetings will be necessary than currently scheduled.

Synthesis Subcommittee's tasks include:

FFAC Report

- Tone
- Outline/Organization
- Format
- Review edit report

Problem/Recommendations

1. Show relationships between problems
2. Help formulate and synthesize recommends from other subgroups
3. Help set appropriate context
 - * climate change
 - * Help develop local, state, national scale recommendations
4. Formulate an implementation plan (separate document or included in report?)
5. Develop material on (1) funding and (2) coordinating policy decision to address multiple problems