

SFAC MEETING NOTES

December 7, 2007

Public comment - None

Housekeeping:

- Jill absent today
- Storm damage update will be added to the agenda today
- Presentation on NW Forest Plan and the Recreation Assessment topic will switch places on the agenda
- DF position – two retirements have one DF to oversee both districts
Position filled with Bob Gustavson – should be able to increase our consistency and efficiency by erasing the district boundary
- Chairperson recognition: Vergie Ries –
Presentation of certificate of appreciation and TFC sweatshirt
- Vergie comments:
Fondest memories are centered on the people involved in the SFAC process – committee members, ODF staff, & other cooperators
- Term expirations and position recruitment:
Dave, April, Vergie, XXX, and XXX terms are expiring
Recruit for another citizen at large and
Selections will be done around January 1st.
Selection process: Selection advisory group assists ODF
application of candidates – how do the potential candidates affect the balance of the committee?

G.V -Can you have two at large member from the same area?

M.B. – this is something that could be considered.

- Next meeting for the Roads Subcommittee is on January 14th????

State Forests Updates:

- Storm Damage Update
 - Tillamook - Ross – wind/rain event – 48 hr period
 - Windthrow (120 MPH winds) – confined to immediate coastal areas (Gods Valley, Bay City)
 - Preliminary estimates 10MMBF of windthrow
 - MMMA were hit hard in Gods Valley and Coal Creek
 - Inland the windthrow is very minor
 - Road Damage – less than last year
 - Salmonberry, Wilson drainages hit hard
 - Roads and Railroad sustained major damage
 - Trask drainage roads sustained less damage
 - ODF road crew assisting county with opening roads

- Air recon today or tomorrow to obtain more info
- Forest Grove - Bob
 - No evidence of significant windthrow
 - Damage is mostly road related (debris flow, loss of bridges, culverts, roads, & railroads)
 - Beaverslide bridge washed out
 - Upper Newhalem, Wheeler basin, Salmonberry area sustained considerable road damage
 - Several structures designed for 100-yr events washed out
 - Estimate of about 2 million in damage
- Astoria – Todd
 - Limited to coastal area –where it occurred it flattened everything – these areas will be regeneration harvests
 - Inland there is very little windthrow
 - Road damage is minor - maybe (\$500,000 in damage)
- Barrett
 - What will be considered a normal year given the storm damage from the last two years – how do we involve the public in this conversation
 - Gain political support and understanding that forest damage is an ever-increasing workload that we need to build infrastructure to address
- Ginny
 - Concern that the media is stressing that the clearcutting is causing some of the windthrow issues along HWY 26
- Mike
 - At the same time we are working on assessing storm damage and our regular job, districts are working with local emergency agencies to offer assistance however possible
 - TFC is still closed
 - Power back on in Tillamook
 - One phone line open in Astoria now
- Phil
 - What qualifies as FEMA eligible?
 - Initial FEMA estimate as of 12/6/07 is \$3million

NW Forest Management Plan – Nancy Hirsch – See Performance Measure Traget
Fact Sheet

- November 2nd BOF meeting:
 - Prior Background
 - 2001 – approved FMP in administrative Rule
 - March 2007 – Performance measures adopted for State Forests
 - Evaluation process over the next year on how to integrate these PM's into the framework of the plan
 - Sun Pass tour used to highlight the use of performance measures

- Options development workgroup provided input on different options for scenarios that could be used to produce different outcomes in the Big 3 districts.
- Staff proposed targets to achieve PM's
- Board Direction
 - Staff will develop strategies to meet targets
 - Staff will recommend an approach to meet targets
 - Any strategies that are outside of current plan would require an administrative rule change
 - Intent
 - Targets – only for Big 3 - set by the BOF
 - 20 year planning horizon
 - Maintain or improve outcomes associated outcome from 6 performance measures
 - See Nancy's handout
 - Increase revenue by 30-35% over then next decade
 - Grow and maintain complex habitat on 17-20% over next 20 yrs
 - Staff will take draft work plan to BOF on Jan 9th, which shows how ODF will meet the targets
- Vergie – Increase revenue: Does PM include the issue around addresses the market conditions. I.E. if it is a down market, would be cutting hard to get to the 30-35% increase? Nancy, - will be using a 5-yr average as the measurement which would allow to avoid being forced to sell in down markets.
- Phil – to increase \$ by 30-35% do you increase volume cut by 30-35%? How does this compare to what has been cut in the last two years? Is this a 30% increase from what we are cutting in 2007? Is the increase in harvest compatible with increasing complex structure? M.B. – It is an increase in both, given the age and composition of existing stands there is opportunity to do both.
- Carolyn – Does 30-35% apply to each district or as an aggregate? Concern that districts that are already producing at the high end of the range, if they are forced to add another 30-35% this would be hard. Nancy – this is will an Aggregate objective across all three districts. M.B. – we may have to shift our paradigm on how we approach achievement of the PM's. We may end up with a plan that is significantly different than the current FMP. The new plan is not likely to include an HCP. It will however have to address the species of concern in some manner. Nancy – the BOF was presented with a wide range of options and the meeting was well represented by a variety of stakeholders.
- Wayne – revenue targets – tough with housing starts going down, concerned that the targets could force cutting in a bad market. M.B.- using a 5-yr average as the measurement which would allow avoiding being forced to sell in down markets.
- Vergie – appears to be opportunities to try a variety of different things to achieve these performance measures.

- Ginny – concerns: has trending in log prices occurred – if so it should allow flexibility. Will increasing revenue increase jobs locally? Where do these logs go – do they create local jobs? Nancy – BOF performance measures contain metrics on community health – jobs etc. About 90% of the logs are processed locally. Barrett – having the information that describes this increase in revenue/harvest could affect the local communities would be helpful for the committee in reviewing this. Nancy – Gary Lettman has done some of this work which may be helpful.
- Barrett: How does H&H model play into this? There were runs on this model that were outside the plan which have provided information for the board to review on some of the potential options available.
- Phil: By being able to manage across the Tillamook and Clatsop state forests, it should provide the ability to make better management decisions.
- Nancy – 3rd target. Will it accessibility be affected? M.B. – No it is looking more at the drainage of those roads, not closing them.
- Vergie – when the board is at the point of making a decision on this, please use SFAC as a forum to help share and understand this process.
- Barrett – this is great discussion that helps inform SFAC, but SFAC is really tasked with implementation of policy, not developing policy.
- Vergie – understanding this new policy is important for the committee to understand and thus become more effective in their role.
- Todd – Charter says that regarding policy issues, the committee needs to provide feedback to the State Forests Program Director (Nancy).

Recreation Assessment – Ross Holloway – Summary handout provided –“Status report on 2nd party assessment follow-up work”.

- Workgroup tasked with reviewing the key findings of the assessment and determining what this means to ODF.
- The 15 findings statement include both symptoms, findings etc. Thus the group has to glean information out of the 15 statements.
- The group developed an action plan and seven key categories that need to be addressed. See handout.
 - Strategic Direction for the recreation program
 - Recreation Planning
 - Standards
 - Workforce Organization and Capacity
 - Business Management
 - Communications
 - Monitoring and Adaptive Management
- Focal areas are subcategories under each key category.
- There has been little discussion by BOF and Land Board about recreation management. More need for strategic direction.
- Vergie: Budgeting – is the planning process constrained by current budgets? Ross – No, identify and prioritize the needs/projects and feed that information into the budget process.

- Barrett: - Complement to the agency on their approach to this process – creation of a planning position – Clyde Zeller’s position. Appreciate that ODF did not take the assessment product as complete when it arrived from consultant (it still needed work).
- Wayne: 1 page handout provide a great discussion tool to use with biking, hiking community. It highlights the priority issues brought up by stakeholders.
- Ross: the intent was to identify an issue, not necessarily the group affected by the issue
- Carolyn: Are your efforts tied in with SCORP (Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) – Ross – Yes. Does this process coordinate with other entities that provide similar opportunities? Ross – this was done on the initial recreation plan but needs to be revised as these needs have changed over time.
- Ross: there have not been standardized methods of collecting trend data.
- Nancy H: this process will help the BOF refine the performance measures that affect recreation.
- Barrett: What is current recreation staffing in FG and TL? Ross – FG still needs to fill OHV position. Ross – temp Rec unit manager, will recruit again for this position, Clyde is in the new planning position. Just filled an NRS 1 recreation position this week. Vacant positions Tillamook has 1 FUS 2 (unit manager) and 1 NRS1 recreation technician. Forest Grove has 1 OHV coordinator still vacant. The announcements for all positions have closed.

Accomplish Reporting for 2007 – Todd Reinwald – See Attached PPT and Tables

- Harvest Final Summary
 - Input from last year was to distinguish pending from completed
 - Table 5 is an attempt to show how the AOP addresses progress towards our structure targets
 - In 2007 the State Forester directed us to use mid-points of our IP targets
 - 210 MMBF for NWOA
 - H&H modeling based on this direction
 - This constituted approximately a 5% increase for North Coast districts
 - 45 of the 54 primary sales have been sold. There are 7 sales expected to be sold in the next quarter, 2 others have had no bidders
 - Carolyn – do the sales include FY 06 sales that were cut in 07? Todd – No, these numbers only represent the FY 2007 planned sales.
 - Salvage Sales
 - Astoria – 17.1 MMBF
 - Replaced 2 of their primary sales with salvage sales
 - Forest Grove - 4.3 MMBF
 - Replaced 1 of their primary sales with a salvage sale
 - Structure Table
 - Beginning IP Structure targets were generated using OSCUR, but current condition is based on SLI data – somewhat apples and oranges.
 - What are we really trying to accomplish with the structure tables?

- Phil: One of the committee's charges is to monitor the agencies progress towards achieving structure goals of the FMP.
- Ross, the table needs clarification – The acres in table 5 represent acres treated to move those acres towards the DFC, NOT acres of DFC that was harvested.
- Barrett: - Need to explain to public the trade off's in collecting the data that will answer this question. What would it cost to have 100% inventory done annually? Is it a good use of limited funds? ODF needs to explain these trade – off's.
- Road Construction and Road Projects – See Table 3
 - Planned 55.5 miles – accomplished 53 miles
 - Ginny – What happens to roads after Harvest? Ross – maintained at least until reforestation objectives are met. Some are then blocked off for wildlife reasons, or other resource concerns – some are maintained open for fire access.
- Reforestation and Young Stand Mgmt – See Table 4
- Recreation – See Table Rec. 1 – 5
 - Vergie – what happens to unspent recreation budget items? Nancy/ Mike B. - It stays in the FDF fund and is not earmarked necessarily for that project the next year. That project would be reviewed the following year with all other projects being prioritized.

Other accomplishments:

Tours
 T&E planning and surveys
 Prepare AOP
 Initial analysis of proposed sales and projects
 Administering on-going timber sales
 Stream habitat improvement projects
 Stand inventory
 Land exchange
 Layout timber sales, prepare contracts and action sales
 Storm assessments
 FEMA funding requests
 Windthrow salvage
 Fire assignments that State Forest personnel participate in
 ETC.

Mike Totey: Is the accomplishment reporting beneficial to the committee? Wayne, Ginny, Vergie = Yes very helpful tool in communicating accomplishments to user groups and comparing work done in pervious years. Phil = Explanation of the accomplishment process is helpful too – understanding the different collection methods.

Adaptive Management – Andy Smith – see Adaptive Mgmt. Decision Framework handout.

- Objective of research and monitoring group – are we doing what we said we would do and is it working as we intended
- Monitoring – are our strategies meeting our objectives (usually done internally)
- Research – usually done by outside entities
- See the attached framework handout – it describes the level of decision making for the different types of decisions.
- Three examples
 - Pileated woodpecker foraging research
 - Found that they tended to forage more on down wood and smaller wood than was previously thought
 - How did we use this info
 - Maintain more down wood in piles that acts as a food sources, but does not create an additional fire hazard
 - Swiss Needle Cast (SNC) thinning study
 - Previously assumed that thinning in SNC stands was not effective
 - This study looked at how well SNC stands responded to thinning
 - Found that infected stands responded to thinning quicker and better than previously assumed. Growth response to thinning was much better than previously anticipated
 - How did we use this info?
 - Now sampling infected stands and using this tool to design prescriptions in SNC stands. More thinning prescriptions being used.
 - Provides more mgmt options for treating SNC infected stands than previously thought effective
 - Young Stand Management (OSU)
 - To understand options to use in young stands for creating structure in the future
 - Found that gaps created in young stands at stand age 10-20yrs develop much differently and provide more diversity and structure than those created later in age.
 - How did we use this info?
 - Looking for opportunities to create gaps in stands at a much earlier age

“Field Based” Adaptive Management – Todd Reinwald – see handout & PPT

- Decision making at the field level based on informal monitoring that also meets the intent of the strategies in the FMP.
- Examples
 - Landscape design modifications
 - Land Classification Modifications
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- Land exchange
- Nancy – How is this type of information shared with other districts? Totey – peer reviews, tours, state forest conference are different methods of sharing this information.
- Carolyn – Do districts keep a working draft of where their DFC exists as the process evolves and stands are harvested? Totey – tracked through stand treatment records (ROOTS) program as well as GIS data. This is not an overly formal process.
- Phil: How good are we at tracking new ideas from other agencies/entities (i.e. WDNR, Weyco, etc.)? Andy Smith: we coordinate with other agencies who are researching similar issues.

Pubic Comment for the committee – None

Vergie: Please respond to Jill with dates for new SFAC dates in 2008.
Thanks to all.

No further comments.