

Montana Forest Council
February 21, 2024
Zoom

Participants: Gordy Sanders/Zoe Leake, Christian Cahoon – Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Coleen Michael/Justin Doble – Montana Logging Association, Gordy Mouw – SFI, Inc., Zachary Miller – Weyerhaeuser, Cameron Wohlschlegel – Stoltze Land & Lumber, Bruce Rowland – Stimson Lumber Company, Brian Sugden – Sugden Forest Environmental, David Nikonow – National Wild Turkey Federation, Brian Hobday – Green Diamond Resource, Alexios Smith/Cindy Peterson/Peter Kolb – MSU Extension Forestry, Ashley Machus/Marc Vessar – MT DNRC, Christine Johnson – Nine Mile Venture, Tom Agens – Packaging Corporation of America.

Program Administrator: Julia Altemus

Welcome/Anti-Trust Statement: Gordy Sanders

November 15, 2023, Notes: Add Brian Hobday to the list of participants.

SFI 2022 Standards-Fire Resilience and Awareness Seminar, SFI Strategic Direction 2025 – 2030/Theory of Change: Gordy Mouw gave the highlights. Recap on the Fire Awareness and Resilience Webinar on Feb 2. IF you recall SFI in 2022 had playbooks on possible ways to implement the Smart Forestry, Biodiversity and Fiber Sourcing for SICs to implement. Implementing fire resilience in Forest Management Objective 10.1. The second half of the meeting focused on fire awareness which is in the 10.2 Objective about communicating the benefits and risks of using fire on a SIC or group level. Recording can be found on the [Forests.org/member/sic](https://forests.org/member/sic) website. PLT is mentioned in the webinar and what they have to offer regarding communicating fire awareness. Peter, fire resilience is a complicated issue. Politics makes it complicated. Gordy M says SFI says there is a program that the company can implement. SFI doesn't get into the details. It's up to the company's program to minimize risks. Using appropriate management techniques. Peter suggests a regional level, mainly the northwest and maybe we should develop our own program. Gordy S, SFI is looking to continually improve based on new science. Peter's idea could be helpful, particularly with Old Growth and Mature Tree. Gordy M, part of the program is supposed to identify risks and minimize risks. Could be regional or SIC.

SFI Strategic Direction Every five years SFI develops a new strategic direction (not necessarily a new Standard). Besides the Standards, what other strategic direction should SFI be looking at. There is a Theory of Change looking at 2025 – 2030. Over arching path for SFI to follow strategies over the next 5 years. PLT continues to foster a lifetime of learning, career pathways with youth and teaching teachers on the PLT piece. There are short-term and long-term strategies. The Theory will guide SFI and PLT staff. The SICs will have an opportunity to provide feedback while the strategies are worked on in 2024 and will launch in 2025. Nothing will change in the Standard.

The SFI annual conference is on June 4-6 in Atlanta, GA. All SICs get together on the morning of June 4th. Looking at a logging site on Weyerhaeuser grounds on June 6.

Mature and Old Growth Science Summit: Implementing Climate-Informed Forestry to Foster Resilience: Gordy Sanders, Nadine had sent out an invite for participants. March 4 – 6 in DC. Help inform the Administration on the true science surrounding OGMF issue. 18 different members in the collaborative putting together the summit. Contact Nadine if you want to participate. Hosted by SAF.

Thinning/Stocking Educational Brochure: Peter/Cameron/Zack, David/Marc. Marc sent out a mock-up of the brochure. Peter provided some additional comments. Marc will make some adjustments before he kicks it over to Ashley. Bruce passed on to the Stimson team. Bruce has a few comments he will shoot to Marc, but Stimson likes the format. Cameron, some of the formatting needs some fine tuning. Marc is looking for pictures if anyone has some. Gordy S, is there a need for reference to links? David believes that links might get in to the weeds to much. Gordy S asked Ashley if the formatting is good and holds the reader's interest. Ashley will go through the brochure once she gets the final version back to her. Brian S suggested a picture of spacing on a hillside or drone footage would be beneficial. Gordy S thought that would be a good idea and if anyone has a picture to send it to Marc. Zack, WY has a drone and certified drone pilot that could get a picture. What is the deadline to get it to the publisher? Marc hasn't started to look for the publisher and the funding. Marc would like comments and pictures to him by February 28th. Gordy S wants the brochure for the spring contractor meetings. Try to get it done by April 1st. Usually print 2,000 – 3,000 copies. Marc will get a bid and send it out to the MFC. There will be an electronic copy available as well. There is \$2000 in the budget for printing. Whose logos go on the brochure? Gordy S, who wants their logo in the brochure? Zack, shows good collaboration if we put all the logos of the stakeholders that are involved in MFC. Gordy S, should give thought on what topic should MFC work on next for a brochure. Peter, Climate Smart Forestry, maybe a consensus between MT and Northern Rockies. Gordy S, could be tough for 3 to 4 pages, but worth thinking about. Marc, what are people asking about? Cindy, landowner objectives – highest priorities are fire and insect and disease, 2nd is forest health and wildlife. These are broader topics but main landowner objectives. Marc, asked if they could actually ask workshop participants what they are concerned about. Cindy, could add to the evaluation asking what topics would the landowner like to know more information about. Peter, once a landowner has objectives and a plan, then where do they go to get help. Gordy S, SMZ law and voluntary wildlife management in the SMZ. The DNRC brochure was produced in 1995. Cameron, slash mitigation, biomass, biochar, etc. Might be informational. Brian S, thinks the SMZ brochure is a really good brochure, but maybe should be updated.

Updates to MFC Brochures: Marc/Ashley Machus. Ashley didn't get any comments since she sent out the brochures from the last meeting. She has a question regarding the Landowner Bird copy. The brochure links out to the public are not the same as the hard copy she has. She hopes to have them all final by the end of the week. DNRC will print some but sure how many yet.

Spring 2024 Training:

March 9, 2024, Extension Forestry Mini College
March 15 – 16, MLA Spring Board meeting Fairmont Hot Springs
March 19 – 21, 1st Aid/CPR Hampton Inn, Kalispell
March 22, Stoken Logging Contractor's 1st Aid/CPR
March 26 – 28, 1st Aid/CPR City Hall, Libby
April 2, 1st Aid/CPR, Grantree, Bozeman
April 2 Contracting 201, Grant Creek Inn, Missoula
April 2 – 5, Intermountain Logging Conference, Spokane
April 4 – 5, FFA Convention, Billings
April 9, 1st Aid/CPR, The Grange Hall, Hamilton
April 10 – 11, 1st Aid/CPR Fire – BW Grant Creek Inn, Missoula
April 12 – 13, SAF State Meeting
April 16, 1st Aid/CPR Fire, Hampton Inn, Kalispell
April 17, 1st Aid/CPR Community Center, Seeley Lake

April 17, Harlow Career Fair
April 18, 1st Aid/CPR, Kiwanis, Harlowton
April 18, FH Stoltze contractor's meeting
April 19, Landowner workshop, The Delta Inn, Helena
April 19, What's New in Logging, MLA, Kalispell
April 22, Green Diamond Contractor's meeting, MLA, Kalispell
April 23 – 25, Forest Stewardship Workshop, Kalispell
April 26, Sun Mountain Lumber & Logging, 1st Aid/CPR & Fire, Penn Center, Deer Lodge
April 30 – May 1, 1st Aid/CPR & Fire, Fairgrounds, Plains
May 2, Advanced SFI, Lubrecht
May 6, BMP/SMZ, City Hall, Libby
May 7, BMP/SMZ, MLA, Kalispell
May 8, BMP/SMZ, Grant Creek Inn, Missoula
May 9, BMP/SMZ, Penn Center, Deer Lodge
May 17 – 18, MLA Annual Meeting, Butte
May 21, Log Scaling, Kalispell
May 23, Log Scaling, Deer Lodge

Marc, for the BMP/SMZ in Kalispell this year? Can the class be in Whitefish. Coleen will check and see; it is already scheduled.

Project Learning Tree/SFI: Cindy Peterson and Lexi Smith, for 2023 9 professional events across the state. Plans for 2024 national joint conference in San Antonio May 13 – 17. Put in for a scholarship to help with travel. Expecting \$1000 from the FS and \$9000 from the DNRC. Lexi, have 5 stewardship workshops planned. 61 total landowners registered so far. The MT Forest Stewardship Foundation sent in \$5000 and got some Title 3 grant funding from Lincoln County and waiting to hear from Missoula County.

MFC Financial Report: Coleen same as in November.

Member and Partner Updates: Marc, no new SMZ violations or takeovers. Working hard on BMP and field reviews. Cut by County report will get out soon. Kate Kronen retired; Liz Kitterman was hired to replace Kate. Marc would like to get her out to all the mills. Brian H, Green Diamond has a surveillance audit in August. Spring supplier/contractor meeting April 22 at the MLA office. With the Intermountain Logging Conference April 24 – 25. Have some scholarships available for U of I students. Future Logging Workforce scholarship is available for any student wanting to go into forestry. Brian H will send the scholarship opportunities to Julia, and she will send them out to the group. Bruce, Stimson had a recertification audit in 2023. Will probably have surveillance audit on Oregon lands in 2024. Cameron, spring meeting is April 18th. Road limits got posted in Flathead County so wrapping up log hauling. Zack, external audit in June for fiber sourcing. David is now the district biologist for the region for the NWTF. Coleen, FFA career fair in April in Billings. Peter, Climate Smart is getting mentioned more in federal cost share funding. He is working closely with NRCS. Maybe having a conference with NRCS and DNRC foresters in Lubrecht or Missoula to make sure everyone is on the same page and help landowners to get work done through cost share funding. Burn pile workshops in Bozeman and the Bitterroot that have been sitting there since last year. April 6 at the Hamilton fairgrounds, burning piles and smoke management. Maybe produce a video on pile construction and when to burn and how to burn. Ties to Climate Smart Forestry. New source of publications online soon. Christine shipped pulp logs! Tom, no

audit activity since the last meeting. Fiber sourcing and chain of custody will be in Wisconsin and Michigan this year. All assets are running this year! Still curtailed somewhat, but orders and growth are good for the year. Zoe, the MT Forest Stewardship Foundation is April 19 at the Delta in Helena. Lolo Forest Plan revision is posted and comment until April 1st. There is a forestry coalition pertaining to the revision. Gordy S, surveillance audit later this year. Ashley, DNRC is going to bring back the brochure as a public service to highlight consulting service forest and mill forestry experts. Julia, lots of state and federal issues, 52nd annual convention is Whitefish September 19 – 20.

Next Meeting: June 26 hopefully at DNRC.

Topic: Montana Forest Council

Date: Feb 21, 2024 09:16 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

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