

Montana Forest Council

February 14, 2023

Zoom

Participants: Gordy Sanders/Zoe Leake/Christian Cahoon – Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Gordy Mouw – SFI Inc., Coleen Michael/Tim McEntire/Justin Doble – MT Logging Association, Marc Vessar – MTDNRC, Christine Johnson – Nine Mile Venture, Bruce Rowland – Stimson, Cameron Wohlschlegel – FH Stoltze Land & Lumber, Tom Agens – PCA, Cindy Peterson – MSU Extension Forestry, Brian Hobday – Green Diamond Resource, Eric Jacoby – Roseburg Forest Products, Brian Vrablick - AFM

Chairman's Welcome: Gordy Sanders

Antitrust Statement: Gordy Sanders

November 2022 Notes: No corrections

SFI 2022 Standards-SFI Feedback from Auditors Meeting, Northwest SIC Workshop, ESG Standard

Alignment: Gordy M provided feedback from the various meetings, the SFI Auditors Forum meeting, what concerns the Auditors may have with the Standards. Two in particular include the Fiber Sourcing on Biodiversity Objective 1 regarding fact sheets we are using in MT, and Climate Smart Forestry Workshops and the reports that come out of the workshops. Biodiversity and fact sheet – bottom line most auditors like the fact sheets but there was discussion around the use of the sheets i.e. distribution to landowners and loggers. Distribution is of concern. Need to do a better job of incorporating into logger training. Need to have some specificity in the region, which MT does. Just need to concentrate on the distribution. Gordy S wanted to know if water quantity came up in the Forest Management discussion? Gordy M said it came up in the Forest Management discussion, auditors are confused because of the range of how water quantity is being measured. Probably will need to have more guidance on how to gauge water quantity. SFI have the flexibility to address this issue. Gordy S, what is the expectation for private landowners? Gordy M, this is the wide range of responses that is causing confusion. Forest Management reports specific for Climate Smart Forestry workshop. The report has worked great, auditors really like them. Gordy M now must take the information and get a final report out to the MT/ID SICs. This has set an auditor expectation as to what to look for regarding Climate Smart Forestry. SIC generated report. Gordy M is also planning to reinstate SIC fall regional meetings. This will be an opportunity to review these reports on a regional basis. Gordy S, Language regarding international law, Gordy M US law trumps any international law concerns. ESG Standard Alignment is a rating system that companies will be rated based on investment dollars that they are going to spend to try to get a sense of how sustainable a company may or may not be. Can pull from Google and rate a company. A lot of it is done based on an algorithm that can be found on line. One thing this algorithm can find out is that a company is certified which is the basis for an ESG rating. Under certification, is a list of items a company is accomplishing to show sustainability. When the rating companies first started, then could find that a company is SFI certified but the raters didn't really know what activities went into being SFI certified. SFI said they need to get credit for the work that is being done which should lead to points and get full credit for the work that is being done. SFI has spent a lot of work to show the requirements under Forest Management and Fiber Sourcing. Still more work to be done. The word Alignment is to make sure companies are aligned with what ESG raters are looking for and companies are getting credit

for work SFI certified companies are doing. Gordy S, will SFI come out with an ESG Standard in the form a one-pager? Gordy M SFI plans to come out with a progress report on this topic. Gordy M SFI annual conference is May 14 – 16 in Vancouver Canada. Also, will have an SIC session for those attending. The fact sheets on biodiversity, SFI will host all the fact sheets for easy access to members. There will be a map, so can click on Montana...a dashboard. This will be done by the end of February. Annual report will be due late spring.

SFI Implementation Committee Governance/2022 Standards?: Gordy S this went out to everyone. Gordy S wanted to know if there are topics that need more work on? Gordy M another item is that community grants are out, and deadline closed in March. Five different priority items. If there are ideas, then bring it up to Gordy S. Can apply for community grants. Grants around \$20K. Gordy S, think about what topics are beneficial.

Thinning/Stocking Educational Brochure: Peter/Cameron/Zack/David/Marc. Marc was not aware of this proposed brochure. Weyerhaeuser requested brochures and Marc realized that a lot of the brochures are out of stock or out of date. Marc needs to know what brochures are really needed and which ones can get put on the website for a digital download. Marc contacted staff to find out which ones can be placed online. This is being looked at. Brian had looked for brochures on the website and couldn't find them. It would be nice to have them in a PDF format. Brian might be able to get a hold of some of the original files. Gordy S suggested Marc send out a note of the ones DNRC does have and the status. Brian wanted to know if DNRC would be the host for these documents? Marc said probably but will get back to the group. Cameron has not heard from Peter. No work has been done on the Thinning and Stocking brochure. Gordy S would like to have an outline available by the June MFC meeting. Cameron will reach out to the whole brochure group.

Spring 2023 Training: Tim and Justin –

March

- 4 – Extension Forestry Mini College
- 10 – 11 MLA Spring Meeting – Helena
- 14 – 15 First Aid/CPR & WL Fire – Libby City Hall
- 21 – 22 First Aid/CPR & WL Fire – Plains Sanders County Fairgrounds
- 28 – 31 First Aid/CPR & WL – Kalispell Hampton Inn

April

- 4 – First Aid/CPR & WF Fire – Hamilton Grange Hall
- 5 – 6 First Aid/CPR & WF – Missoula Best Western Grant Creek Inn
- 11 – Contracting Workshop – Missoula
- 12 – 14 Intermountain Logging Conference – Spokane WA
- 18 – 20 Forest Stewardship Workshop for Loggers – Kalispell MLA Office
- 18 – First Aid/CPR WL Fire – Kalispell Hampton Inn
- 19 – First Aid/CPR & WL Fire – Bozeman Comfort Inn
- 19 – FH Stoltze Contract Meeting
- 20 – First Aid/CPR WL Fire - Harlowton
- 21 – 22 Diversify your Business Workshop – Kalispell Hampton Inn
- 25 – 26 First Aid/CPR WL Fire – Lubrecht Experimental Forest
- 27 – Weyerhaeuser Contractor Meeting
- 28 – SFI Advanced – Lubrecht Experimental Forest

May

- 2 – Stillwater Post & Pole Contractor Meeting
- 3 – 4 First Aid/CPR WL Fire – Deer Lodge Pen Center
- 5 – First Aid/CPR & WL Fire – Sun Mountain Pen Center
- 8 – BMP/SMZ – Libby City Hall
- 9 – BMP/SMZ – Kalispell
- 10 - BMP/SMZ – Missoula Grant Creek Inn
- 11 – BMP/SMZ – East Location TBD
- 12 – MLA Safety Summit – Missoula
- 19 – 20 MLA Annual Meeting – Missoula Holiday Inn

Project Learning Tree and Stewardship: Cindy, Logger workshop in April, also Stewardship workshops Frenchtown, Bozeman, Kalispell in Trout Creek, and Corvallis. People can get put on a 2024 list if they can't get in on the 2023 workshops. There is also an overview of the 2022 summary and maps on their website stewardship page. Most classes can handle around 20 ownerships per workshop. PLT, had an early childhood professional development tied in to project wet and project wild. Through MSU and get early childhood credits. Holly did a class in Fortine, funded through a remainder of a Tree Farm grant. The steering committee meets quarterly. Was asked by OPI to provide an after-school program in Polson in May. The international conference for PLT is in Washington in March. Holly is attending. Gordy S, how many teachers have gone through the program, Cindy are 65.

MFC Financial Report: Coleen's report shows \$23,750 cash commitments, \$21,250 in-kind commitments for a total of \$35,000. Expenses total \$25,315.

Member and Partner Updates: **Bruce**, Stimson will have a surveillance audit this year and an internal in May and external audit in July combined with 20-year HCP audit. **Brian**, Green Diamond Resource no regular SFI audit this year, but going to do an internal audit with Green Diamond this year. **Tim**, Flathead County is going to extend hauling this year. **Marc**, DNRC one violation and a warning. Spending a lot of time redoing the software for the HRA. **Cindy**, mini-College is Saturday March 4th can have a booth. \$25 fee and lunch is included at U of M. **Cameron**, Stoltze mill is running two shifts, fully staffed. **Coleen**, March meeting 10 and 11th. **Tom**, PCA external surveillance audits at eastern locations this year. He will have an internal audit later this summer. **Gordy**, Pyramid will have a surveillance audit in October and also let the group know the RY – Timber announced their closure.

Next Meeting: June 21st. In person.