

MFC

June 18, 2025

Participants: Cameron Wolschlegel - FH Stoltze, Roger Ziesak - Montana Forest Consultants, Tim McEntire/Justin Doble/Coleen Michael - MLA, Tom Agens - PCA, Mark Vessar/Ashley Machus - DNRC, Michael Westbrook - SPP/MT, Zack Miller - Weyerhaeuser, Caleb Deitz - Flathead Ridge Ranch, Christine Johnson - Nine Mile Venture, Gordy Mouw - SFI, Brian Hobday - Green Diamond Resource, Nicole Porter - American Forest Management, Dan Claridge - Thompson River Lumber

Administrator: Julia Altemus

Chairman's Welcome and Anti-Trust Statement: Cameron

February Meeting Notes: Thanks Coleen Michael for the February notes. Not edits

SFI Annual Meeting: Gordy Mouw, good conference in Minneapolis, forests and the future. SFI turns 30 years old this year. Looking ahead to the next 30 years. Future tech and markets, how to make certification easier. Program recordings are online. Gordy will forward an email that has links. General SIC meeting as well. Gordy will send out the notes today. talked about Logger training and video and SIC partners. The Breweries Guild got together and worked with the SICs because clean water makes good beer! Regional breakouts to talk about projects. Next meeting May 5 - 7 2026 in Montreal, Canada.

Educational Brochure and What is Next? Marc, there are brochures available at the DNRC. Some are updated and they are also online. The SMZ updated version is online. Marc, what is the next brochure? Roger suggested information on Wildfire Recovery. Cameron suggested slash treatments. Zack said climate smart forestry is what Peter Kolb was working on. Caleb, Climate Smart Forestry is site specific and may not be the best topic, he likes the idea of focusing on Wildfire Recovery for landowners. Ashley has a landscape recovery document that is broad. Cameron suggested we could link to Ashley's document. Marc, "After the Fire" that was published in the 90's because of fires. This information is now outdated. Roger suggested a couple of good prescriptions would be helpful for landowners. Cameron, more BMP focused. Brian agreed and if the landowner treats their property, what tree species should they plant, etc. Marc, for the salvage timeline, regeneration, burn severity, beetle outbreak, erosion control and funding sources. Definition of Hydrophobic soils. Not more than 4 pages or a tri-fold which would be a total of 6 pages. Ashley, what type of landowner is the audience. A landowner that had a wildfire may have more interest in a more in-depth and larger document. Ashley, fire insurance companies have information for homeowners that address concerns immediately after a fire. Cameron supports a tri-fold. Committee makeup: Marc, educational brochure coordinator, Roger, Nicole, Brian, Zack. Ashley will help design. Outline by November and rollout at the February 2026 meeting. Marc, if other states have something similar we can look at.

Spring 2025 Training Recap: Justin 25 1st Aid/Fire classes. 1155 1st aid, down a bit from 2024. Fire class had 975 down from 2024. 2025 numbers were better than 2023 numbers. Forest Steward workshop in April, had 6 people attended. Had a couple ALP classes (Safety Culture) in Kalispell. Expected 10 but only 6 came due to weather. The people that did attend thought it was well worth the time. Roger agreed. Justin put together an "All Things Business" class. Had a great showing for this class. Had MT West, Economic Development, ALE Insurance, Edward Jones, BBER. Had a "Managing for Wildlife" class in Missoula. Speakers included Chas Vincent, Trout Unlimited, Elk Foundation and Fish Wildlife and Parks. Advanced SFI had 23 people at Luebrecht. Zack and Peter put the class on. 4 BMP/SMZ classes. 22 Libby, 35 Kalispell, 42 Missoula, 14 Bozeman. Put together an experimental road building BMP class. Used property on FRR. Didn't advertise, just called around to invite people to participate. Had both state and federal folks and 6 contractors involved. Put in an ephemeral pipe and a drain dip. More hands on. Aimed for people involved in road building. Can tweak the class and build on in the future. Have to have machines out there so thanks to FRR. While at the 1st Aid/Fire classes also had written safety program as well. Tim, training for 2026 virtual boundary class would be important as the FS is doing more with virtual boundaries.

Project Learning Tree/SFI: Lexi was not available. Ashley said they did get some grants. There will be a "train the trainer" at Luebrecht.

MFC Financial Report: Coleen, After the increase in dues, \$25,000 in cash and expenses 26,000. Brochure came in under budget. Peter, Zack and Caleb are the member recruitment committee.

Recruitment Committee Update: Zack said Gordy M is working on a recruitment brochure. Cameron, a couple options moving forward status quo or as Gordy suggested different commitment levels, or go back to the old annual dues rate and work on getting new financial commitments in addition to participation by entities. Tom, said the Washington meeting last week, gave a presentation regarding the breweries. Other states are investigating what other states are doing to involve the breweries guild. A way to get non-forestry people involved and pay a small fee. Get the brewery presentation from Gordy. Caleb wanted to know what financial commitment would forestry consultants be willing to commit to. Roger, they want to be at the top end of the certification chain. Maintaining highest environmental standards. Brochures help too. Cameron asked the committee to bring a list of potential new financial commitments and levels of commitments for different members or participants. We will get the Forest to Tap presentation. Cameron did reach out to Jim at Smartlam. He also has reached out to Clearwater but have not heard back.

Member and Partner Updates: Brian, held spring contractor breakfast in April, safety, environmental compliance audit. Have a native fish habitat conservation audit in July. Just completed a carbon audit for the Lost Trail carbon project. Focused on Montana Great Outdoor project phase I, 53,000 acres. Working on Phase II. North side of Chain of Lakes. About 50% complete on pre-commercial thinning this year. Total 1,000 acres and completed about 500 acres. Running 1 harvesting operation. Nicole, SPP operations, have a HCP 5-year external audit. Operations on the ground,

has not done any harvesting since summer of 2023 and do not have anything planned for the future. Thinning 1,000 acres. **Caleb**, had SFI audit early in the spring. Working on their carbon project. Starting hand crew on 600/700 acres starting end of June. FFVC students pre-scribed burn project. **Zack**, hired another forester, grinding oversized in log yard, CF fire, back up and running in both lines. Hog fuel pile burned as well. **Coleen**, working on getting the ALP reports after the first of July. **Tim**, out in the woods, very dry in the woods. A few new operators. **Ashley**, making a forest products page and quick facts. **Tom**, audits scheduled in the fall. Surveillance audit for fiber sourcing. Operations had a machine idled since May. Not sure if it will start back up in July. Willis chipping in Bonner is running well. **Roger**, getting ready for the upcoming season. The woods are drying out quickly. Looking to at projects the Crazies and in Missoula county. Laid off a few employees during the winter and recently Hired 2 new people. planted over 4000 seedlings. Still have quite a bit of p-pine. **Cameron**, surveillance audit in the fall. Planted over 100,000 seedlings. Mill running 60%. **Marc**, the HRA bill that passed in the last session is working well. 2026 audits prepping. Does anybody need Marc to drop off brochures. **Julia**, state legislative interim committee meetings are starting in July. There were over 100 study bills passed. The committees cannot take them all on, so have to prioritize and then decide what to study during the interim. The MWPA annual convention is September 17 - 19 at Grouse Mountain Lodge, Whitefish, co-hosted to FRA this year.

Next Meeting: November 12th 9:30 - 12:00 zoom.