

November 9, 2021

Montana Forest Council

Participants: Gordy Sanders, Scott Kuehn & Bryce Smith – Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Coleen Michael, Bryan Lorengo & Tim McEntire – Montana Logging Association, Christine Johnson – Nine Mile Venture, Peter Kolb & Cindy Peterson – MSU Extension Forestry, Cameron Wohlschlegel – FH Stoltze Land & Lumber, Bruce Rowland – Stimson Lumber, Jared Richardson - Weyerhaeuser, David Nikonow – National Wild Turkey Federation, Roger Ziesak – MT DNRC, Patti Case – Green Diamond Resource, Brooke Durin – AMF, Gordy Mouw – SFI, Tom Agens – Packaging Corporation of America

MFC SIC Administrator: Julia Altemus

Antitrust Statement:

June 2021 Notes: Patti moved to approve, Jared offered a second, the notes were approved

SFI 2022 Standards/Role of SIC ie FECV, etc: Gordy M, Risk assessments will likely be the same in Montana and across the county and should be done at the SIC level. Large expansion of the SIC role in the 2022 standards, especially around climate change. Same with biodiversity, fiber sourcing and climate smart forestry. Working on having regional SIC meetings that will focus on ways or options on meeting SFI standards at the SIC level. Working on connecting SICs with consultants to help meet standard requirements. Lining up speakers for the regional meetings. Gordy S wanted to know if other SICs around the country are interested in the expansion of authorities to SICs. Gordy M said yes especially for the smaller companies. There is a lot of interest in meeting the climate change objective through the SICs. Maine and Texas are piloting programs (climate change risk assessment and implementation pertaining to forestry) and Gordy M will report back. Really no different than the SICs handling the logger training, etc. When the audits come for the 2022 standards, these programs will have to be met, whether through the SIC level or not. Jared, Objective 1 – Biodiversity: Requirement to conduct G1/G2 species assessments in every mill's wood procurement area and make the results of the assessment available to suppliers. Objective 5 – Research: Ensure that knowledge gained through research is shared, to the extent possible, to positively influence sustainable forest management. (this will require finding a way to evaluate research information and shared targeted finding with our supply chain, similar to how we now share findings from our BMP monitoring programs with suppliers). Objective 6 – Training: Changes to the logger training requirements. New Objective 11 – Avoid Controversial Sources: Expansion of the list of controversial sources beyond just illegal sources. Shouldn't be a big impact in the US/CAN, but there might be some areas where additional due diligence may be required (requires a risk assessment).

Link to an SFI document that covers how the FS standards are changing: https://www.forests.org/wp-content/uploads/SFI_Standards_MajorEnhancements_FS_May.pdf

Link to the tracked changes version of the SFI standards, so you can see where there are changes in the FS standard: [SFI-2022-Standards-and-Rules-Track-Change-Version-April-15_2021.pdf \(forests.org\)](https://www.forests.org/wp-content/uploads/SFI-2022-Standards-and-Rules-Track-Change-Version-April-15_2021.pdf)

Cameron suggested going to Forest.org to review the new standards. The ability to use SICs to meet the objectives will help the smaller companies meet the new objectives. FECV 3.2 maximum log delivery

from logging professionals, new definition of controversial sources, due diligence system, if we work together shouldn't have to much trouble meeting the new sourcing requirements. Gordy M, there is a webinar to go over the changes and highlights immediately after this MFC meeting. Encouraged the MFC participants to attend.

Bird Habitat Management Brochure: Roger, he sent out several packets to people. If anyone needs more brochures, he has several Bird and Bat brochures to distribute. Getting them out to service foresters. Good internal distribution, need external distribution. Gordy S, next brochure topic is commercial thinning/silviculture. Roger will take a lead with the sub-committee during the winter months. Peter has a lot of information, written and pictures, but work will have to commence after the holidays.

Carbon Markets Discussion: Gordy S, increasing amount of conversation around carbon markets and carbon credits. Much of the conversation is around paying people to not cut trees. Talked to NCX (carbon marketing company). For private landowners that want to participate, NCX doesn't care what the landowner does during the year, but the areas that are not treated have a "shape" file that is reconciled with lidar annually. Landowners are paid to not harvest in identified acres and reviewed each year. Peter, everyone is sitting on the sidelines waiting to see who is going to buy the carbon credits. For Montana, the market is in CA. Luebrecht signed an agreement with CA for carbon sequestration. There was an assessment is made as to how much carbon is in the forest. Carbon credits are still evolving. Montana should pursue a reforestation carbon sequestration model to sell carbon credits on burned acres that would keep any cutting for 40 years while the trees grow back. Patti, Green Diamond has a lot of experience in the carbon markets both in the voluntary or regulated markets and would be happy to find someone speak to the MFC about this issue. Gordy S, suggested at the February 2022 meeting.

Virtual Training Opportunities: Tim, probably not going to offer online training next year. Online doesn't seem to be successful.

Spring Training 2022: Tim, did some new filming for first aid. Not sure about attendance for SMZ/BMPs in 2022 because the large turnout this year. Going to have a safety summit. A lot of demands to figure out basal area. Will develop a class and workplace safety pertaining to COVID and the new marijuana laws and how that will impact workers and owners. Intermountain Logging conference will be in an opportunity in 2022.

Project Learning Tree/SFI: Cindy Peterson updated the group on Project Learning Tree. New guide out for K – 8th and an early child guide will be out later this year. Cindy will provide the guide if anyone is interested. There was a small group that was refreshed for facilitating with teachers. Building a partnership with Project Wild program with MT FWP. At the education conference for educators in November. The annual conference for PLT and SFI will be combined this year. Facilitator training was done on a Tree Farm property in the Bitterroot. Stewardship Logger workshop with bill April 14 – 16, 2022 at MLA office. Zach Miller is going to help teach and working to recruit the new DNRC service forester. Landowner workshops in 2022 will be in Eureka, Frenchtown, Kalispell, and Bozeman. Dates not selected yet.

MFC Financial Report: Coleen, received confirmation from IFG that they will continue through 2022. 2021-2022 Projected Income: Cash - \$26,250, In Kind - \$18,750 for a total Annual Commitment of \$35,000.

FY '22 Logger Training and Education Expenses: Administration - \$12,000, Database - \$8,315, Education Outreach - \$3,500 for a total estimated expenses of \$23,815

Member and Partner Updates: Roger, moving a head with the BMP field reviews for 2022. Letters will go out toward the end of the year. Looking for team members. Calibration the first week of June. Audits June – August, get a report out in October. He has excess Forest Practices brochures and BMP/SMZ books if anyone needs them. Did not have any take overs last quarter. Have 2 active SMZ violation cases that are proceeding. Hope to wrap up investigations in January of 2022. Bruce, Yaak fire burned about 12,000 acres of Stimson land. Working on rehab. SFI audit will have a western resource lands in 2022. 20,000 acres of conservation easement closing this month. Coleen, hosting Christmas party December 3 with Board meeting December 4. Tim, going to Bozeman with the simulator to present to students. Invited back to FVCC to present to students. Cameron, Stoltze had surveillance audit October 5-6 everything went well. Back to running 2 shifts. Bryan, Forest Products week, took students out to a logging site for a tour. Seeing small incremental gains in students entering the logging profession. Patti, Green Diamond had an audit in Montana in October. In 2022, audits in Washington and Oregon. Recertification audit to the new standards. Brian Hobday will be the new area manager in Montana. David, working with Jason Parke with FWP to develop a workshop for SAF in 2022. Jared, had audits in West Virginia, but won't have anything in Montana until 2024. Christine, finishing up winter breakup. Bryce Smith, SFI coordinator for Pyramid. Tom, wrapped up a capital project. Multi-site audits in Tennessee and Michigan in 2021. Fiber sourcing and chain of custody in Washington in 2021. Gordy S, Pyramid had an audit this year and everything went fine.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 9:30MST