

Montana Forest Council

February 16, 2022

Participants: Gordy Sanders/Scott Kuehn/Bryce Smith – Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Roger Ziesak – DNRC, Cameron Wohlschlegel – FH Stoltze Land & Lumber, Bruce Rowland – Stimson Lumber, Christine Johnson – Nine Mile Venture, David Nikonow – Wild Turkey Federation, Tim McEntire – MLA, Zack Miller – Weyerhaeuser, Tom Agens – Packaging Corp of America, Brian Hobday – Green Diamond Resource, Brian Vrablick – SPP MT, Ben Super – U of M Forestry and Conservation, Peter Kolb – MSU Extension Forestry

Guests: Bryce Maxell MT Natural Heritage Program

MFC Admin: Julia Altemus

Anti-Trust Statement and Welcome: Gordy Sanders

January 2022 Draft Notes: Notes accepted

SIC Role in 2022 SFI Standards: Gordy Mouw provided an update on the SFI certification. SFI is the largest certification standard in the world. The six main standards include: Fiber Sourcing, Forest Management, Chain of Custody, Certified Sourcing, Small Scale Forest Management for indigenous peoples and families and Small Lands Group Certification. There is a seventh certification standard out later this year, an Urban and Community Forest Certification standard. This one will be out June or July of this year. One of the biggest changes in the 2022 Standards is for the SICs to be able to develop their own guidance on several new standards, including biological diversity, climate smart forestry, fire resiliency and awareness, logger training and outreach to forest landowners, etc. There universal concern with the SICs as to how to tackle these. The SFI is developing a “play book” on each issue and will provide a webinar to help the SICs. If the SIC follows certain steps, then they will be able to meet the Standard Objectives. 2022 is a transition year. All the objectives will have to be met in 2023. Auditors know that if a company wants to audit to the new standards, that they cannot be docked if the new standards aren’t quite met. The SIC Governance Document has been revised in order to support the new 2022 Standards. The SFI Annual Survey won’t be out until June in order to help companies meet ESG (Environmental/Social and Government) indicators or criteria. The SFI Conference is 2022 is in Madisen, WI. The SFI conference is 2023 will be in May in Vancouver, British Columbia. Gordy S wanted to know if the SIC takes on a Standard but doesn’t quite meet all the priorities of the Standard, can they get a non-conformance by an Auditor. Gordy M said, SIC will not get audited, but if the SIC provides wrong information, the SFI participant can get a non-conformance. Gordy S, question on Fire Resilience....Gordy M, not that prescriptive. Identifying risks and having a company policy in place. This is a forest management objective and not necessarily fiber sourcing. Zach Miller, what about school forests since U of M has a school forest? Gordy M, U of M would likely fall into the SFI Urban and Community Forest Certification. Zach said U of M forest is 27,000 acres. Gordy M, then they would fall into the Forest Management Certification if they wanted to participate.

Educational Brochure Update: Roger provided an update. The committee will dig into the brochure in mid-March.

Forests of Exceptional Conservation Value: Bruce, Cameron, and Zack provided a draft of the topics they were assigned. Gordy S will paraphrase their submissions and forward to the group. Bryce Maxell wants to help remove barriers to get to the important and pertinent data. Bruce wanted to know where to share their boundary files with. Bryce said to send to him. Requesting data in the future go to their home page, select data tab and then file a request. Zack wanted to know if it is possible to get a statewide land map for G1 and G2 species would be helpful. Bryce said yes. Gordy S suggested to pick a species and compile a map and share with the group so we can see what other data might be pertinent.

Spring 2022 Training Schedule Update: Tim provided the updated training schedule.

1st AID/CPR RT-130 Refresher

March 22 nd -23 rd	Libby
March 29 th - April 1 st	Kalispell
April 12 th & 13 th	Missoula
April 14 th	Hamilton
April 26 th	Thompson Falls
April 27 th	St. Regis
April 28 th & 29 th	Deer Lodge & Kalispell
May 3 rd	Harlowton
May 4 th	Belgrade
May 3 rd -4 th	Seeley Lake

SMZ/BMP

May 9 th	Libby
May 10 th	Kalispell
May 11 th	Missoula
May 12 th	Deer Lodge

Forest Management Practicum (Advanced SFI)

May 5 th	Kalispell
May 6 th	Lubrecht

Forest Stewardship Workshop

April 12th-14th MLA Office

OTHER ALP CLASSES

Basal Area 101- Lubrecht, April 15th 6 Alp Credits

Instructors - Beth Dodson & Scott Kuehn

Basic overview of Basal Area and hands on use in the field

Planning for the Future-Kalispell, May 3rd 6 ALP Credits

Instructors Alistair Stewart & Joel Schumacher MSU Extension

Erica Potts MLA

Jon Jordan Edward Jones

Highlight succession planning, retirement options for small businesses, health care plans and health savings accounts.

Staying Safe in the Workplace-Kalispell, April 19th 4 ALP Credits

Instructors Bridger Kelch WFPD Chief of Police

Seth Stratton Drug Force Task Team

Derek Breedlove VestigeView Solutions

Recognizing drug use in your employees, implementing a drug policy, dash cams and roundtable discussion on theft deterrent.

The “Perfect” Log-Kalispell, April 22nd 6 ALP Credits

Participants Weyerhaeuser Willis Enterprises

Stillwater Post & Pole Idaho Forest Products

Pyramid Wild MT Wood

Hunt’s Timbers Inc. Dupuis Lumber

Opportunity to talk with the mills about what logs work best for their mills and the possibility of shipping logs to a mill you have never thought of.

Logging Safety Conference

May 20th – Butte

The MLA is proud to present 2022 Logging Safety Conference. It will take place the morning before our annual membership meeting at the Copper King Hotel in Butte. Participants will hear presentations on several safety issues that are topical to today’s contractors. ALP credits will be available.

Tentative Topics

Work Comp 101- Kirk Smith, Montana State Fund
Understanding the true costs or work-related accidents

Steep Slope Technology- Eric Krume, Summit Attachments
Presentation of what it is and what it is doing to change how we log steep slopes

Trucking- Montana Motor Carriers
Preparing for a DOT audit. Recruitment and Training

Recognizing Marijuana use in the workplace – April Kersch, Sun Mtn Lumber

Intermountain Logging Conference
“Roadmap for the Future”
April 6th-8th Mirabeau Park Hotel, Spokane Valley, WA

After a two-year hiatus due to Covid restrictions, the conference is back! Several topics spread over 2 ½ days. We have a very good program in the works that should offer around 11-12 ALP credits. Registration is open now on the website. www.intermountainlogging.org

Gordy S, are there other topics that people are interested in that we can kick down the road. Tim, wants to add BMP for road builders and include the Forest Service. Will present this topic when we get through COVID restrictions.

Project Learning Tree: Gordy M, PLT will join the SFI conference this year.

MFC Financial Report: Nothing new from last month.

Member and Partner Updates: Bruce, SFI audit on western lands in Oregon to the new standard. More salvage on the Yaak fire after June 15 due to GB. Brian Hobday, continue logging season through 2022. Four logging contractors. Contractor meeting with AFM and Weyerhaeuser at the MLA building on April 20th. Scott, Forestry Day in Missoula April 29 and 30, Foresters Ball was cancelled this year, again. Pyramid has two positions open and looking to set a date for the contractors meeting. Cameron, new trailer loader at their site and working on a date for a contractor meeting. Roger, will have a BMP/SMZ field review this year. Initial letters went out recently. Sending out letters to all former team members and looking for new team members as well. Getting ready to offer a contract to rewrite the software behind their HRA contract system. Want to be able to fill out online and submit online. Settled one SMZ violation HRA 27B47934 in Lincoln Co, had one takeover HRA 15B43031. List of BMP Work Group members was submitted for approval and hope to have them approved and the meeting scheduled. Ben, soon announce enrollment for 2022. Have 5 recruitment for facility members. Privately funded through the Franke endowment. Peter, Mini College March 12 at the Forestry Building on campus. Encourage industry to set up displays or posters. Helena Landowner conference is April 22nd. The Perfect Log workshop would be good for landowners as well. Working on the fire suppression issue as it pertains to private landowners. Gordy S, said there will be a subcommittee of the MT Forest Action Council call the Forest Fire Council. Members will be announced. Brian Vrablick, need to get younger foresters out to participate in a BMP audit. Would like to be alerted when the audit team is in the

Flathead. Zack, external chain of custody audit in May. Gary Ellingson is the new SAF chair. IFG contractor meeting April 4 in CDA. Tom, inventory is looking good. Surveillance audits are in September this year not June. Christine, needs 4 more weeks of winter. Gordy S., surveillance audit in October.

Next Meeting: June 22, in-person with call-in option