



Forest Resource Coordinating Committee

Teleconference

March 20, 2014

12 noon – 1pm EST

Meeting Notes

Non-Federal Members Present: Steven Sinclair (State Forester), Tammie Perreault (NIPF; Committee Vice-Chair), James Houser (Forestry Consultant), Daniel Forster (State Fish and Wildlife), Leda Chahim (Conservation Organization), Allan Murray (Tribal), Bonnie Stine (State Technical Committee), Mary Jeanne Packer (NIPF), Bettina Ring (Conservation Organization), Tom DeGomez (Land Grant University), Anthony Delfin (State Forester), James Ford (Conservation Organization), Clifford "Doug" Rushton (Conservation District)

Federal Members Present: David Hoge (FSA), Richard Sims (NRCS)

Members Not Present: Rob Olszewski (NIPF), Bradley Rein (NIFA), Jim Hubbard (USFS S&PF Deputy Chief, Committee Chair)

The members present constitute a quorum, as defined by the Charter.

Staff: Karl Dalla Rosa (Designated Federal Officer), Laurie Schoonhoven (Committee Coordinator), Margeau Valteau (Coordinator Assistant)

Public: Leah Burton, Lacy Levine (New Mexico Dept. of Ag.), Ryan Ward (New Mexico Dept. of Ag.)

I. Discussion on Recommendations

Prior to the teleconference call, the committee reviewed three documents: 1) a transmittal memo to accompany the recommendations when submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture, 2) the primary recommendations draft document, and 3) an editing table that contains drafted recommendations mentioned at the previous FRCC meeting in February 2014.

The Committee began the meeting with the intent to edit their primary recommendations and decide what additional recommendations from the editing table could be added to the primary recommendations document. Based on advice from other FACA groups, it was recommended the Committee submit no more than one-page (front and back) of recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture. With that advice, the Committee decided to prioritize the recommendations and focus on what needed to be addressed immediately. Medium-priority recommendations would be presented to the Secretary at a later time. Members agreed to use concise language and eliminate redundant (or duplicate) recommendations.

The Committee realigned the primary recommendations within categories and discussed missing crucial issues including:

- The continuous decline in funding for the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Stewardship Program;



- The need for the USDA and the Department of Interior to be eligible to access federal disaster and emergency funding for wildfires;
- The increased support and acknowledgement of all U.S. Forest Service's State & Private Forestry programs;
- And the need to emphasize investment in programs that promote forest health protection.

Following this discussion, nine recommendations stand after editing. Members volunteered to edit the nine recommendations and have them ready to present to the Secretary. Once the recommendations are edited by the group, they will undergo the USFS/USDA submission protocol. After the submission is complete, the recommendations will be made available to the public. There was a motion to accept the nine recommendations and the motion was seconded. Vote: 12 in favor, zero opposed, and 3 abstaining.

Recommendations accepted.

II. Next Steps

Members will edit recommendations and submit edits to the FRCC Committee Coordinator by next Wednesday, March 26, 2014. The co-chair will continue to work on the transmittal memo and have it ready by next Wednesday as well. The FRCC Committee Coordinator will send out a Doodle poll to set up a date for the Committee's next in-person meeting.

~ Meeting adjourned 1:00pm ~