

Montana Forest Council

**February 28, 2018**

**Present:** Gordy Sanders and Scott Kuehn – Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Paul McKenzie – Stoltze Land and Lumber, Lorin Hicks - Weyerhaeuser, Roger Ziesak – DNRC Forestry Division, Peter Kolb – MSU Extension Forestry, Coleen Michael, Bryan Lorengo and Lorrie Wood– MLA, Rich Lane – Willis Ent., Doug Mote - Mote Lumber, Bruce Rowland – Stimson Lumber, Jared Richardson - Weyerhaeuser, Skyler Hoefler - IFG, Mike Newton – Newton Logging, David Nikonow - NWTF, Chris Childers – Ponderay News Print via phone conference

**MFC Administrator:** Julia Altemus – MWPA

**Chairman's welcome**

**Anti-Trust Statement**

**November Minutes:** Roger offered a couple edits. Julia will fix and post to the website. Motion to approve by Paul, second Scott. Approved.

**Regional SIC Meeting/Governance Task Force:** May 2<sup>nd</sup> Western Regional meeting – Portland, OR – World Forestry Center – 4033 SW Canyon Rd. Portland, OR 97221 - Meeting room: Mt. Hood Room – Recommended to using the MAX light rail to get there, Use the MAX red line and the Washington Park stop.

*For those needing hotel reservations:*

*Portland, OR*

*Hotel Rose Portland*

*Address: 50 SW Morrison St, Portland, OR 97204*

*Rate: \$155+tax/night*

*Cutoff date: March 17, 2018*

*Reservations: [Book online](#) or call 866.866.7977, and ask for the "SFI Committee Meeting" room block.*

*Note: This hotel is close to the MAX Light Rail Red line, for quick public transportation option to World Forestry Center meeting location.*

**Education Brochures:** Bat brochures are done. Peter would like a digital format. Lorin said he would put it in a dropbox and send Julia the link so she can forward to everyone. Tri-color bat and little brown bat are under consideration for future listing. We need to demonstrate that forestry is not the cause of white-nose syndrome. White-nose is not detected in Montana. Gordy wanted to know what could be the next educational brochure? Gordy suggested Wild Turkeys and Upland Game Birds. David Nikonow provided information about NWTF. Their mission is to preserve wild turkey habitat and hunting opportunities. Five years ago created an

initiative named Save the Habitat – Save the Hunt. Encourage new hunters, secure 500,000 acres of new hunting ground and conserve 4 million acres. They are halfway to their goal. Wild turkeys and forest grouse thrive in early successional forests. NWTF is interested in partnering with MFC to develop a brochure. They already have templates because of all the work they do with private landowners in the mid-west and in the east. Gordy reached out to Bryce Maxell at the Montana Natural Heritage program to work with MFC and NWTF on a brochure and he expressed interest and support to develop the information for private landowners. Paul suggested tying in the importance of early successional forests. Peter suggested early successional intact forests because 1/3 of Montana forests have burned. Managing for turkeys is the same as managing for early successional forests. Roger wanted to know if FWP has created a brochure for turkeys and upland game birds. David said FWP is very focused on upland game birds but does not think FWS has a brochure regarding forest management. Rich asked David to work with RMEF as well and David agreed. The council agreed to move forward with developing the brochure. Lorin agreed to review as needed. Paul and Peter agreed to help with the development. The subgroup will come up with a budget and outline for next meeting in June.

**Spring Training:** Lorrie went through the training program. The 2018 training program is the result of a yearlong effort to update educational needs. Lorrie will send the training program to Chris Childers electronically.

Training consist of:

Business Day, March 29 in Bozeman and April 10 in Kalispell, Forest Stewardship Workshop for Loggers – April 16 – 18 at Yellow Bay, Safety – Loads and Log Yards – April 20 at Weyerhaeuser in CFalls, Understanding Contracts – April 24 at Lubrecht, Selective Harvest Prescriptions – April 25 and 26 Lubrecht, Forest Management Practicum – April 23 at Lubrecht and May 3 in Bozeman, Montana Forestry BMP & SMZ – April 30 in Libby, May 1 in Kalispell, May 2 in Missoula and May 4 in Billings.

Other opportunities include Mini College Lubrecht March 24, Intermountain Logging Conference in Spokane, April 5 – 7, Montana Forest Landowner Conference in Helena April 27

**Private landowner and logger's rights during wildfire:** Peter Kolb works with MFOA and provided information concerning what rights private landowners have during a wildfire. Private landowners have a right to be on their property. Peter is working with Mike Christianson and pull together case studies and give a full review of the legal authority and if necessary try to draft legislation that gives landowners and logging contractors rights during a wildfire. Peter would like to connect with landowners and logging contractors that have been impacted by fire suppression directives.

**MFC Financial Report:** Coleen Michael provided an update. 2017 actual - income from cash and in-kind was \$35,000 and expenses was \$37,605.75. Boise Inc has dropped out and will not be part of the 2018 income. Their portion was \$2,500.

Paul wanted to know if operating in the red is sustainable going forward. Coleen said they MLA is also looking to see if the program is sustainable and make some decisions. Lorrie is retiring from her duties in June. Mike Newton said that the MLA will need decide if they will hire a part-time person to take over the education program. Peter said they he may have funding he can supplement the education program including printing educational materials. IFG has provided dues for 2018 and it was asked if Clearwater Paper has been contacted. Gordy will contact Clearwater Paper.

**Member and Partner Updates:** **DNRC**, state vacancies are still the same as last meeting. Did recently hire a Service Forester for Polson, Nathan Arno. Service Forester position for Clearwater has not closed yet. Rick Moore handles Kalispell area. Tom Perry is the new Biomass Coordinator. Have not had any SMZ violations and only one HRA takeover 45B-42527. 2018 Forestry BMP Field Reviews are this year. Looking for team members and need a leader on the Northwest team. Did change minimum volume per acre to 2.5MBF on the westside and 1.5 volume per acre on the eastside. **MSU Extension Forestry**, Mini College is March 24. Forest Stewardship classes this year include a Train the Trainers at Lubrecht on April 16 – 19. Staffing changes Martin Twer is moving on to a position in CA and not replacing his position due to financial cuts. Peter would like to hire an intern from the MSU Movie School to produce learning videos. **MLA** spring Board meeting is March 9 and 10. **Willis Enterprises**, Rich Lane has gotten involved with the Missoula Chamber Timber Resource Committee and is involved in renewing Missoula Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Seeley Lake is reviewing their plan. **Doug Mote** is involved in 2 carbon sequestration projects and may have credits to sell on the CA exchange in the fall. **Stimson Lumber**, SFI audit on western operations this year and will have an HCP audit on their Troy lands this year as well. They are involved in salvage due to 2017 wildfire and have 1m seedlings to plant over the next couple of years. Decided to keep the Missoula office open. Hired a new real estate forester based out of CDA office but will work out of Missoula as well. **Pyramid Mountain Lumber**, Scott Kuehn is the new forester and this year is the president of the intermountain logging conference. They will have an audit in the fall as well and contractor meeting is May 4.

**Weyerhaeuser** is combining some SFI certificates and incorporating into their western certificate. Just had a chain of custody audit and will have a timberlands audit this year. Lorin Hicks provided an update on the timberlands side of Weyerhaeuser. No third-party audits this year, just internal reviews. NAFO is having a dialogue with USFWS regarding ESA and Lorin has been involved in educating the service on how NAFO can provide information regarding implementing BMPS to protect habitats and species on private timberlands. There is a need for the Service to learn more about certification. **Tree Farm**, Jared is Vice Chair and will be chair in January of 2019. Just had it's national leadership conference in NM. Concerned about losing members due to fees. During 2017 Montana went through an audit over the course of three days. No adverse findings. 2018 annual Tree Farm meeting will be in Eureka on September 29. Hired a new part-time administrator out of Libby. SAF meeting this year is in Whitefish. **Idaho**

**Forest Group** is working at the St. Regis mill to get SFI certified and a push to get employees ALP certified and working on mill upgrades. Forestry staff hasn't changed. Hope to have everything upgraded and updated within the next 2 years. **Mike Newton** said it's been a good year and sending a couple people to the Stewardship Class at Yellow Bay. **Stoltze Land & Lumber** will have surveillance audit in the fall and contractor meeting is April 11.

**Meetings:** June 20 and November 14 at 9:30. Location to be determined.

**Adjourned at 12:25**