



# Forest Management Certification Review

Online/Conference Call

October 22, 2014

**ATTENDANCE:** Kips Powers, Kenneth Jolly, Don VanHassent, Mike Schofield, Skip Jones (Parker Forestry Services), George Eberling, Wade Dorsey, Mark Beals, Rob Feldt, Jack Perdue

## AGENDA

### 1. 2014 Audit Reports

#### SFI Audit Report

Opportunity For Improvement (OFI)

- WMD Roads :: update on Wallman, Lost Land, GRSF
  - Wallman Phase I had been completed and Phase II will be bid on November 5. Costs were about as expected. Lost Land Run project is still awaiting permit approvals. Green Ridge State Forest projects will be resumed after the LLR bids have been received to determine available budgets.
- Annual review
  - Perdue will send out issues from an updated conformance matrix for comments and information
- Silviculture :
  - be aware of your AWP summary tables, they must be included in each annual work plan and up to date.

#### FSC Audit Report

- Changes in ownership
  - Feldt should receive a GIS state forest boundary update annually so to run analysis accurately
- description of commonly used silvicultural systems of the Western Region (obs)
  - no hard copies of the SAF Dictionary are available for purchasing, there is an online version. Currently available hard copies and the online accessible versions will be the source of forest management terms used in the Sustainable Forest Management Plans and annual work plans. State Forest website will be revised to with a link to the SAF Dictionary of Forestry with an statement that terms will be in conformance and can be found there.
- Small contract revisions to include safety requirements (minor)
  - updated contract on webpage. Updated contract will be distributed to state forest managers.

- Chesapeake Forest SFMP needs to include the 30-day public review process (minor) :: requires update of the Sustainable Forest Management Plan.
- Retention >> native vegetation shall be retained within the harvest unit (minor).
  - It is felt by the state forest managers that the current forest harvest retention policy is sufficient to comply with the standard requirements. Also that any issue found during the recent audit was an anomaly.
- SMZ widths (minor, closed)
  - This CAR was closed as result of a conference call involving the SCS auditor, Dr Michael Aust (Va Tech), Anne Strang (MFS) and Jack Perdue (MFS)

### **Other Forest Certification**

- Annual reports
  - These will be sent directly to the state forest managers to be completed and returned to Annapolis where they will be compiled and submitted to the audit agencies.
- Public meetings >> are we ready?
  - It was determined that we have all required documents and reviews in place to submit the AWP's to the 30-day public review
- Updated HCVF based on new acquisitions
  - MFS will review recent acquisitions and work with Natural Heritage Program to properly zone these lands
- Monitoring HCVF
  - There will be a review of the forest inventories and the results will be filtered for the HCVF components

## **2. 2013 Audit Report Updates**

### **a. Western Maryland Roads (SFI)**

Work is being done with Linda Mott (DNR Engineering & Construction) regarding the MDE permits for the Lostland Run roads project at Potomac Garrett State Forest. We have recently learned that we do not have to take all the data we thought necessary. Also, with meeting with MDE on this project, Linda has stated that MDE would like to consider a MOU with DNR that would allow these projects to move more smoothly through the permit system. This certainly is good news and what we hoped, at some point, would be the outcome.

- Jack will follow up with Linda and MDE on the MOU option

Jack will be drafting the timeline and decision tree for these kinds of roads projects to document the process so that the Department may be better able to predict the timeframe for similar projects.

**b. Sound Silviculture (SFI)**

It is John Denning's proposition that the current forest inventory on Potomac Garrett State Forest indicates that we are not as in the arrears on our forest management silvicultural thinnings as we have thought. This is more a Garrett County state forest issue than one that involves Green Ridge State Forest since GRSF is on an area regulation rotation (100 year rotation at about 200 acres/yr) rather than a volume regulation silvicultural system.

The forest managers will be analyzing their forest inventory data (collected to date) and will prepare a report of their findings of the what our forest stand improvement levels are on each forest and what our actions will need to be to manage these forests appropriately.

These reports from the western Maryland state forest managers will be due by February 1, 2014.

Mark Beals (GRSF) will send the GRSF inventory data to Alex Clark so it can be run through the Woodstock modeling application.

Jack will be meeting with Wade Dorsey to review the outputs from Silvah-Oak.

**c. Treatment of Overstocked Stands (SFI)**

Response is similar to 1b above.

**d. Road Maintenance Permits (FSC)**

Response is similar to 1a above.

**e. Silvicultural Audits (FSC)**

After reviewing the Internal Silvicultural Audit process, it has been decided that this will be an effort by a small group including the Environmental Specialist, Regional Forester, State Forest staff and attendance will be by invitation to the ID Team will be optional.

**3. SFI and FSC standards review**

**a. Review Conformance Matrix & Summary**

The Forest Stewardship Council conformance matrix is being reexamined and updated. The document was made available to the state forest managers and they have been asked to make edits according to their knowledge and activities.

Some of the matrices will require information from other agencies and they will be contacted for their input. One example, is the mineral rights ownership map. This effort has been started and the status is unsure.

Rob Feldt will contact DNR Land Acquisition & Planning to learn the status of the mineral rights maps

#### **4. Other discussions**

##### **a. Social Impacts**

Jack will be preparing a white paper on the social impacts of the forest management on Maryland state forests. Steve Koehn offered an information source, Mary Tyrell of Yale University.

Jack will contact Mary Tyrell

#### **5. Audit Dates**

##### **a. Week of April 7, 2014**