

SFI Progress Review 2007
Chesapeake Forest Headquarters Office
Snow Hill MD 3/14/2007 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Attendee(s):

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Note(s)

Complex and plots numbering

Neal Sampson believes each stand requires an individual number.

Contractors Report

New contract is working well.

Vision will be able to do a tract-by-tract report.

Cruising error has been good and when grouped on an annual basis it gets below the contract's required 10 percent error.

Some logging contractors have done excellent work. Master Logger's continuing education has become an issue. Difficult for some to maintain.

There are more and better thinning crews available now.

Modeling Update

Neil Sampson reported that the model now includes Wicomico and Seth Forests to be ready to expand the certification.

Model Attributes

According to Neil Sampson, the basic stand level field data needed to run the Woodstock model.

- forest type
- volume per acre
- average DBH (or size class)
- age of stand
- acreage of stand

- management zone (mgt type)
- source (natural or plantation)

Sustainable Forest Management Plan

The group reviewed changes to the SFMP. Several changes directly address reviews from recent audits. There were some changes from Heritage on the ESA Chapter 7. The change to the Fishing Bay Heritage Area needs to be discussed with the Heritage Program.

Citizen Advisory Committee

Chief Rudy Hall, Chairman of the Accohannock Indian Tribe, Inc. accepted MD DNR Forest Service's invitation to join the CFL Advisory Group on January 10, 2007. The CFL office at Nassawango sent Chief Hall a letter welcoming him as a new member of the group on January 23, 2007.

There were 5 members that participated in the field tour for AWP proposals. The role of the CAC is advisory and consensus should be met at that time.

Hunt Clubs

Everything seems to be going well with the clubs. We are finding some permanent structures members have put up. We have instructed them to remove them.

Some roads may need to be restricted to prevent maintenance issues.

Property Boundary Issue

There are some conflicts and we deal with them as necessary.

Chesapeake Forest Regulation Changes

Some issues we need to consider:

- defining roads
- some hunting restrictions
- defines weapons and their use
- damage to public property
- disorderly conduct

FSC Report

Did we get a final FSC report?

Was the CAR 2005.1 closed?

Advisory Committee role should be included in CF management plan.

We have expanded scope of CAC to include management plan and new additions.

CF personnel have attended invasive plant training.

Pesticide Derogation

The CANZUS group was developed to address the derogation to the FSC Pesticide Policy and work toward affecting a change on how these chemical use restricted are

made. The CANZUS group represents organizations managing 2.1 million hectares around the world.

SFI Audit Findings 2007

Delays in thinning implementation:

- mostly due to weather
- this year will see some final harvest wood from Chesapeake Forest. The feeling is that CF wood is definitely helping maintain economic sustainability during ongoing difficult business cycle on the Shore.

Damaged trees on thinnings:

There were no SFI CARs, but one comment from the auditor regarding SFI Requirement 2.3.5 stated that, "there was more damage to residual trees than desirable." The Opportunity For Improvement (OFI) read, " There is an opportunity to improve by reducing the amount of damage to residual trees in partial harvests."

The DNR Forest Service review team thought this issue has been thoroughly considered in the sale contracts and Best Management Plan (BMP) inspections.

An item considered for every inspection is whether "Damage to residual trees is minimized."

The CF Cut & Haul agreement with the operator clearly states, "'Skinning" of residual trees must also be kept to a minimum (no more than 5% of residual trees with scrapes exceeding 0.5 square feet)."

Action(s)

Summary & Response to FSC Audit Recommendations 2006 Surveillance Audit Report

REC.2006.1

Analysis of forest management activities has been conducted to determine how habitat has been enhanced for rare threatened and endangered species, such as the Delmarva Fox Squirrel (DFS). Post thinning and harvesting inventories are conducted and run through the RemSoft forest-modeling program. RemSoft is able to model habitat change over time and compare it to the targeted goal.

Additionally, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is conducting a 10-year study on DFS populations and habitat on the Eastern Shore. The Maryland Forest Service (MFS) is involved in this effort by providing field data on a monthly basis.

REC 2006.2

The MFS has continued its effort in controlling hardwood species by conducting prescribed fire when possible.

Staff members have attended various pesticide training in an attempt to locate appropriate alternative chemicals for hardwood control.

REC 2006.3

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) met to review the 2008 Annual Work Plan (AWP) on 10/27/2006. The AWP was changed as a result of comments by the CAC. Minutes were taken during the meeting and included in the AWP.

The CAC is scheduled to meet in April to review proposed changes to the Sustainable Forest Management Plan.

Chief Rudy Hall of the Accohannock Tribe was added as a member to the CAC in January 2007.

REC 2006.4

MFS and contractor personnel are scheduled to attend training on May 17, 2007 at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center. Participants will learn how to identify invasive plants and discuss various treatment methods.

A process has been developed to identify, track, map and treat invasive plants.

The MFS has procured a quick response spray truck for small infestations of invasive plants.

The contractor has an ATV equipped with a spray apparatus for invasive plants.

Heritage Data Response

The Ecologically Significant Area (ESA) data requires adjustments to work in the field. Heritage feels they need to maintain this data and this requires quality control.

Is CAR 2005.1 closed?

The final FSC audit report was requested from Scientific Certification Systems and verified that the CAR 2005.1 has been closed.