

Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Review Meeting 2006
Snow Hill, Maryland
July 31, 2006, 9:30am – 3:10pm

In accordance with Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service Operation Order 2005-601 and Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI) Object 13, a meeting was held to examine findings and progress in implementing the SFI standards on those lands subject to the Standard, specifically the Chesapeake Forest Lands.

Agenda

Item #1 - Review of SFI Report findings. (see attachment #1) OFI 2.3.5
Any other report items we should specifically discuss?

Item #2 - Modeling up-date
Discussion & demo by Neil / Matt - progress on our Remsoft modeling effort - next steps?

Item #3 - Contractor report
How is the new contract working - any issues or problems that should be discussed? Any logging contractor issues or problems?

Item #4 - Citizens Advisory Committee
Discussion re: how to more fully involve the CF/Pocomoke CAC in the overall management decisions.

Item #5 - Hunt Clubs
Discussion re: Hunt Club related issues / possible CF regulation changes to better enforce trespass by non-Hunt Club members.

Item #6 - Property boundary issues
Up-date / discussion re: current boundary issues.

Item #7 - Review of FSC Report Findings

Attendees

1. Steve Koehn – Maryland DNR Forest Service
2. Daniel Rider – Maryland DNR Forest Service
3. Kenneth Jolly – Maryland DNR Forest Service
4. Jeff Horan – Maryland DNR Forest Service
5. Kip Powers – Maryland DNR Forest Service
6. Jack Perdue – Maryland DNR Forest Service
7. Mike Schofield – Maryland DNR Forest Service
8. Sam Bennett – Maryland DNR Forest Service

9. Dave Reinecke – Maryland DNR Forest Service
10. Deidra Brace – Maryland DNR Forest Service
11. Bill Porter – Maryland DNR Forest Service
12. Neil Sampson – Vision Forestry, LLC
13. Larry Walton – Vision Forestry, LLC

Notes

1. Item #1 - Review of SFI Report Findings

Need For Improvement - Skinned Trees

The review was done before the job was completed, so appeared more of a problem than might usually. The contract requires certain skinned trees to be removed. Larry Walton will send "contract language" that addresses skinned trees.

Our contract states that "skinning" of residual trees must be kept to a minimum (no more than 5% of residual trees with scrapes exceeding 0.5 square feet).

Kenneth Jolly mentioned the report with many "Exceed Standards" has prompted a news release. It was printed in the SAF eForester and Forest Watch.

2. Item #2 - Modeling up-date

Demo by Neil / Matt - progress on our Remsoft modeling effort - next steps?

Need to push treated acres to about 3,000 per year. The model shows we are behind on thinnings, but we knew that. Vision is very pleased with the Remsoft modeling ability and support. Vision Forestry has incorporated the ESA guidance into the CF model.

Dan Rider mentioned the important components of Delmarva Fox Squirrel habitat are tree size, availability of hardwood and pine, and habitat connectivity.

3. Item #3 - Contractor report

How is the new contract working? / Any issues or problems that should be discussed? / Any logging contractor issues or problems?

The new contract with Vision Forestry is working well.

Seven final harvests in the new annual work plan. Rain issues and \$/acre are not as good as we would like. Being creative with industry to offer block sales. Lumber is off, poles and piling are good.

4. Item #4 - Citizens Advisory Committee

(Discussion re: how to more fully involve the CF/Pocomoke CAC in the overall management decisions)

We need more than one meeting per year. Maybe have a field tour similar to the ID

Team. We should share the ID Team comments with the CAC members. Mike Schofield will contact CAC to learn if they would like a field tour and when.

5. Item #5 - Hunt Clubs

Hunt Club related issues / possible CF regulation changes to better enforce trespass by non-Hunt Club members

Today is the last day for payments. Kip Powers will follow up with any clubs that have not responded to see if they are still interested in leasing the tracts or if they should be entered into the lottery. Suggestions to improve the lottery were discussed, including requiring applicants to be present and at least 18 years of age and allow just one application per person.

ATV complaints are high and difficult for us to handle. Our policy is to refer these calls to the Natural Resource Police.

6. Item #6 - Property boundary issues

Up-date & discussion re: current boundary issues with Tom Dowd (PLP&P)

Various encroachment issues were discussed.

One is part of a house extension built on CF land.

Public hunting lands need to be better distinguished from hunting leased areas. We may need to discuss this with our Legal department.

7. Item #7 - FSC Issues

Recommendation #1 Delmarva Fox Squirrel

The management prescription to focus on 14"-16" trees was discussed. It was agreed that we should continue to do post-harvest cruises to accurately determine management prescription success.

The Habitat Conservation Plan is back on track with the contractor. State lands will play a major role.

Recommendation #2 Pesticides

A letter is due in December regarding our response to the newly revised pesticide rules under FSC. We should use the first audit as a documentation source which applauded our use of pesticides at reduced rates.

Recommendation #3 Citizen Advisory Committee

We have successfully combined the Pocomoke State Forest and Chesapeake Forest boards.

Recommendation #4 Exotic Invasive Species

We now have a form where our contractor, Vision Forestry, documents occurrences and sends a copy to CF manager Mike Schofield. Mike approves the spray proposal and Vision Forestry sprays the area of exotic invasives species.

Recommendation #5 Prescribed Burning

Do more burning and use fewer pesticides. Conditions to burn are rare lately.

Recommendation #6 Staffing

No changes anticipated under current budget limitations.

Item#1 Indigenous People

Five tribes have been invited to join the Citizens Advisory Committee. However, they have shown no interest to do so. We will continue to maintain contact via certified letter. None of these tribes are Bureau of Indian Affairs certified.

Pine Snake on State Forests

The Forest Service will be submitting an alternative to the Heritage proposal to re-establish pine snakes on the Pocomoke State Forest. We will request pine snake forest management guidelines from the Heritage Service for review and assessment.

We have decided not to seek certification for Pocomoke next year. However, we can add the Wicomico and Seth Demonstration Forests to the acreage. We also will move quickly to prepare for Pocomoke's certification in 2008

Actions

1. Skinned Trees Contract
Assignee: Larry Walton
Send contract text to attendees. "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).
2. Citizens Advisory Committee Annual Work Plan Tour
Assignee: Mike Schofield
Mike Schofield will contact Citizens Advisory Committee to learn if and when they would like a field tour of the Fiscal Year 2008 proposals.