

## Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Program

Washington SFI State Implementation Committee 31716 Camp 1 Road Orting, WA 98360 360-879-5823

Date: October 15, 2008 (Names of those in attendance are in **Bold Italics**)

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# Washington SFI Implementation Committee (SIC) Meeting Highlights October 15, 2008 Port Blakely Tree Farms, Tumwater

## <u>Updates on Participant Activities</u>

- Forest Capital Partners: Completed surveillance audits in the eastern U.S. and cleaned up some minor non-conformances
- Boise Cascade: Completed Inland Region surveillance audits
- Green Crow: One of their clients is anticipated to be come SFI certified at the end of the first quarter next year, approximately 60-70,000 acres
- WA Department of Natural Resources: Completed surveillance audits of Olympic and Northwest Regions in June with no non-conformances or opportunities for improvement and eight notable practices
- Weyerhaeuser: Completed surveillance audit of its Western Timberlands in July
- Stimson Lumber: Completed recertification audit in early summer of lands within WA, OR, MT
- Hampton Resources: Completed surveillance audit of lands near Darrington
- Rayonier: Surveillance audit in May
- Longview Timber Company: Surveillance audit with one minor non-conformance concerning spill kits
- Pope Resources: Surveillance audit in August
- Cascade Hardwoods: Upcoming audit
- International Forestry Consultants: Audits in the summer
- Boise Cascade: Procurement audit

#### Natural Heritage Update

John Gamon from the WA Department of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Program (WNHP) gave a presentation and discussion on the Program's resources and cooperation with landowners and the SIC. The WNHP manages site-specific and species/ecosystem-specific information on priority plant species and ecosystems; those that are rare or have very limited distribution. WNHP also provides information on amphibians and reptiles and is part of the NatureServe network. WNHP has a database of occurrences that is available to landowners. For smaller landowners without GIS capability, maps can be produced disclosing data for their particular area. Another option would be to transfer the updated data on a regular basis to the SIC for dissemination to small landowners. In the future an internet based mapviewer may be available through the LandScope America project.

Links for listed plant species can be found at:

http://www1.dnr.wa.gov/nhp/refdesk/lists/plantrnk.html

Contact information for Natural Heritage staff is at:

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/amp\_nh\_staff.pdf

WNHP main page:

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/NaturalHeritage/Pages/amp\_nh.aspx & http://www1.dnr.wa.gov/nhp/refdesk/index.html

Action Item: These links could be placed on the SIC's website.

Followup: Brian Kernohan will contact SFI Inc. to determine their involvement with the LandScope America project. There is a possibility to recharacterize or get more information on plant association fact sheets.

### SFI Inc. and Green Building Update

Amy Doty joined us on a conference call to discuss green building. SFI Inc. provided comments in a letter to USGBC during the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building System<sup>TM</sup> review process. The letter commented on the proposed benchmarks that could allow other Certification systems to qualify for credits. There will be another upcoming 15 day public comment period on the draft credits and governance. Hopefully by the summer of 2009, the new benchmarks will be adopted. SFI Inc. is keeping aware of State green building initiatives. Allison Welde will be the green building staffer at SFI Inc. They are looking to hire someone at the Director level for green building.

There is a new SFI website that has specific SIC information available through a password protection system.

SFI standard review update: The standard was distributed to the subcommittees. It is expected that the draft set of proposed revisions will be approved at the December Board meeting. There will be an additional comment review then working groups will finalize the revisions. There were three main working groups: 1) Objectives 1-7 2) Objective 8 3) Objectives 9-13.

The National SFI conference in Minneapolis was a success.

## Updates from SIC chair, Julie Stangell

- Minutes from the June 4, 2008 SIC meeting were approved with two minor changes.
- The SIC gave input and comments to the draft updates of the SFI Standard.
- Julie attended the Regional SIC meeting and it appears that WA is the only SIC advertising. Each SIC is unique and there is not much overlap in projects.
- We may discuss with Amy Doty, future direction for the SICs.
- There is a strong Canadian SFI advertising effort and SFI has added one additional staff person for Canada.
- There has been a study examining brand recognition and FSC had a 12% recognition whereas SFI had a 19% brand recognition.
- SFI has revised and standardized its labels. "On September 25, 2008 SFI Inc.
  unveiled new labels and all SFI certified participants and certificate holders can
  start using these immediately. Participants must transition to the new labels by
  the end of 2009 or until existing stock is depleted. If a company is unable to
  transition to the new labels by the end of 2009, a letter must be sent to the SFI
  Office of Label Use and Licensing requesting an extension." (SFI link
  <a href="http://www.sfiprogram.org/labels-and-claims.php">http://www.sfiprogram.org/labels-and-claims.php</a>)
- Press Release is at <a href="http://www.sfiprogram.org/files/pdf/news-releases/nr-newlabels-2008-09-24.pdf">http://www.sfiprogram.org/files/pdf/news-releases/nr-newlabels-2008-09-24.pdf</a>
- There should be a new labeling manual. It will be condensed into one for Chain of Custody and procurement.
- Julie had a meeting with Kathy Abusow. She recognized the work FSC is doing to group certify small forest landowners. She asks us to solicit American Tree Farm for ways in which SFI can continue to help small forest landowners.
- Considering putting ATFS presentation onto the SIC website.

- Julie reviewed the advertising efforts by the SIC and the 2009 advertising budget. Should we pursue radio advertising?
- The Mt. Baker FFA raised \$5000 from the forest industry to send them to the National competition. The SIC donated SFI t-shirts and funds.
- Julie would like to have a group to field requests for booths or be a speaker.
   Coordinate roll as tracker of these requests to find people to fill the spots.
   Perhaps, we should encourage volunteers at certifications booths to be other, entry level staff, rather than always SIC members. There may be resources at Pack Forest to provide students to staff booths.
- We should make the logger training presentation available on the website.
- Budget Review. Is an annual funding request preferable to waiting until the SIC needs money? Consensus is that an annual request is preferable for planning to sporadic requests.
  - Followup: Brian Kernohan will contact the Idaho SIC for a model of how they calculate dues.
  - Julie will send out an annual request for voluntary donations. Maybe look at having a refined system to set expect donations. For example: donations based on low/med/lrg sized landowners.
- Discussion on renting a facility for a joint meeting of WA ATFS and Farm
  Forestry Assoc. to discuss global warming/climate change by Gary Ritchie. It
  could be a separate or combined meeting. Possibly a separate meeting for the
  SIC. Harry Bell suggested that Jeff DeBell (DNR seed orchard) could talk to the
  group about how forestry may transition
- Julie will send out an annual request for voluntary donations.

Next SIC Meeting February 11, 2009

9:00 a.m. to Noon
Port Blakely Tree Farm in Tumwater