

Notes from The Forest Stewardship meeting, October 8, 2008- 9 am

John Watermolen- Forest Stewardship-Forest Legacy and GIS Coordinator welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

Pete Anderson- State Forester gave an update on the importance of the committee. Pete stated that partnerships between NDF and various agencies have been very beneficial and are critical for future natural resource projects and programs in Nevada. Pete discussed the trend towards competitive grants from the Forest Service. He also mentioned the National MOU between state foresters, US Forest Service and NRCS. NDF is working to create its own MOU with the Nevada's NRCS office. *Many of the participants recommended pursuing the MOU and to write into the MOU, that NDF would get a block grant of EQUIP funds from NRCS for Stewardship Projects, instead of having the land owner go to NRCS with a Forest Stewardship Plan and apply for EQUIP.*

Dee Sessions- USFS Region 1 and 4 State and Private Forestry gave an update on the Federal perspective and a history of both the Forest Legacy and Forest Stewardship programs. From a regional perspective Nevada is the only state that has completed its monitoring and done with its monitoring and is far ahead of many states in the state assessment. Dee mentioned that the Federal government is operating under a 6 month continuing resolution until after the elections.

Forest Stewardship Program Update- John Watermolen gave an update on NDF's forest stewardship program. He highlighted the accomplishments from the past year and the future projects. A handout was provided outlining NDF's forest stewardship plan and the role of a forest stewardship plan in cost share funding. He mentioned that he was working with NRCS to ensure stewardship plans meet EQUIP standards. John discussed the Spatial Analysis Project (SAP) and the Forest Resource Assessment Project (FRAP). He mentioned that FRAP was in the review and input stage and that everyone's input was welcome and appreciated. Listed are the comments received regarding FRAP:

- 1) Make sure look to other agencies for information, such as NDOW, NRCS, US Fish and Wildlife
- 2) Add the noxious weed layer from Natural Heritage
- 3) Use more current vegetation data such as SWReGAP land cover data
- 4) Presentation on FRAP to the Conservation Districts annual meeting in Jackpot, if NDF can get on the agenda
- 5) Presentation to the Tribal environmental managers at their next meeting
- 6) A table display of the FRAP map at the Inter-Tribal council conference
- 7) Several representatives mentioned they would like copies of the methodology and maps to review and give input
- 8) Look at some regional resource planning documents, such as Washoe Counties open space plan for other ideas
- 9) Once the data layers get finalized to hold one day workshops, especially for GIS users, on how the data layers were collected, manipulated and process for the state wide assessment.

Forest Legacy program- Rich Harvey gave a presentation on NDF's Forest Legacy program. He mentioned the Ash Canyon Gateway project should close in January of 2009. Rich confirmed that Washoe County's project is the State's number one priority and Carson City's is number two. A question was asked if a NGO can hold title to forest legacy projects and the answer is no, based on national program regulations. Under NRCS's Conservation Programs an NGO can hold title. Dee Sessions said he would look further into it the issue.

Stewardship Committee Organization- John Watermolen gave a brief presentation on the different options on how the committee can be organized, from an Executive Committee to the Forest Stewardship Coordinator running the meetings. It was decided that the Forest Stewardship Coordinator should set up and conduct the meetings. The point was made to make sure that private landowners' participation is critical to the Forest Stewardship Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am

Participants:

Betsy McFarlan - Eastern Nevada Land Coalition  
Dee Sessions - U.S. Forest Service  
Scott Hall - Private Land Owner  
Becky Stock - Nevada Land Conservancy  
Dave Morrow - Division of State Parks  
Wes Henderson - Nevada Association of Counties  
Don Henderson - RCI  
Michelle Langsdorf - Mason Valley and Smith Valley Conservation District  
Carl Clinger - Big Meadow Conservation District and private land owner  
Lynda Nelson - Washoe County  
Peter Maholland - Division of State Parks  
Tansey Smith - Inter tribal council  
Mike Odegard - NRCS

Nevada Division of Forestry Participants:

Pete Anderson - State Forester  
Rich Harvey - Resource Program Manager  
John Watermolen - Forest Stewardship Coordinator  
Susan Stead - Urban Forestry Coordinator  
Jason Perock - Seedbank and Biomass Coordinator  
John Christopherson - Western Region Resource Management Officer  
John Copeland - Fire Protection Officer