

**Western Joint Forestry Team
Fostering State Partnerships – Achieving Local Results
Lewiston, ID Meeting: 8/20 and 21/08**

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
United States Forest Service (USFS)
States of Montana, Idaho, Utah and Oregon on behalf of Western States
Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC)
National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)

Meeting Notes - Participant List

Name¹	Affiliation	Email	Phone #
David Groeschl	Idaho Department of Lands Assistant Director–Forestry & Fire	dgroeschl@idl.idaho.gov	208-769-1525
Robert Ethridge	Montana DNRC Forestry Assistance Bureau Chief	rethridge@mt.gov	406-542-4303
Geoff McNaughton	Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands Forestry Programs Supervisor; incoming Chair, WFLC Forest Resources Committee	geoffmcnaughton@utah.gov	801-538-5460
Gary Kuhn	USDA NRCS State Forester (WA)	Gary.Kuhn@wa.usda.gov	509-323-2956
Robert Logar	USDA NRCS State Forester (MT)	Robert.Logar@mt.usda.gov	406-587-6836
Frank Gariglio	USDA NRCS State Forester (ID)	Frank.Gariglio@id.usda.gov	208-746-9886
Peg Polichio	US Forest Service Deputy Director, State & Private Forestry, Northern & Intermountain Regions, Forest Service	ppolichio@fs.fed.us	406-329-3280
Lanny Quackenbush	Oregon Department of Forestry Private Forests Operations Manager; Chair, WFLC Forest Resources Committee	Lanny.Quackenbush@state.or.us	503-945-7478
Ralph Thier	National Association of Conservation Districts Western Issues Specialist	ralph-thier@nacdnet.org	202-547-6223
Jeff Fidgen	Idaho Department of Lands Forest Health & Cost Share Programs Manager	JFidgen@idl.idaho.gov	208 666-8624
Bob Carnes	US Forest Service Business Manager, Western Forestry Leadership Coalition	bcarnes@fs.fed.us	303-445-4362
Jay Jensen	WFLC Executive Director	Jay.Jensen@ColoState.edu	303-445-4366
Jeff Burwell	USDA NRCS (ID) State Conservationist	jeffery.burwell@id.usda.gov	208-378-5701

¹ Jeff Burwell attended the Wednesday evening dinner, and Peg, Gary, Bob and Jay participated via teleconference in the Thursday afternoon wrap up discussions and decisions.

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Background:

This meeting and tour was a result of an idea presented in the initial group conference call of 5/16/08.

Purpose of Meeting:

- To meet each other face to face in an informal setting
- To share successes and experiences from western states in forestry accomplishments from the 2002 Farm Bill
- To discuss ideas and develop strategies that will enable the western states to coordinate an effective interagency delivery of the forestry elements of the 2008 Farm Bill.

Summary of Outcomes:

- On Wednesday evening participants who were in Lewiston by that time met over dinner to get to know each other and have discussions. Jeff B. attended at this time and was able to talk about State NRCS-State Conservationist perspectives.
- On Thursday's meeting, the group visited three forested sites south of Lewiston in the Soldiers Meadows area. Forestry practices that had been applied utilizing 2002 Farm Bill EQIP cost shares were viewed on private and on Nez Perce Tribal lands.
- Perspectives from state forestry, NRCS, NACD were discussed during the day. The tour portion of the meeting lacked input from USFS staff that were scheduled to attend (they were prohibited from traveling at the last moment due to severe budget constraints within the USFS).
- During the tour the group members shared experiences gained from partnerships that were developed in order to achieve forestry EQIP results under the 2002 Farm Bill. Specific issues that were discussed included-
 - *EQIP person and land eligibilities*
 - *Roles of Conservation Districts, local and state workgroups*
 - *Evaluation and ranking processes*
 - *“Cultural” barriers, differences and similarities of planning and contracting processes with NRCS, state forestry, USFS.*
 - *Funding issues, priority & distribution of EQIP funds within states (NRCS)*
 - *TSPs: private and Contribution Agreements*
 - *State examples of successful efforts that worked and problems encountered*
 - *Staffing needs and shortages, capacity building, etc.*
- In the afternoon we had an indoor discussion with a teleconference link which included Peg, Bob, Jeff and Gary.
- During the afternoon session we discussed how our western effort relates to efforts and objectives of the Joint Forestry Team. We focused on the barriers identified by the Joint Forestry Team and reviewed their charter and update minutes. We agreed to refer to our regional efforts as the “Western Joint Forestry Team”.

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Summary of Outcomes (continued):

- We went over the draft forestry MOU to make sure that the approach of the Western Team was in line with the national forestry MOU and with the Joint Forestry Team.
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*Back row, Left to Right: Lanny Quackenbush (OR), Geoff McNaughton (UT), David Groeschl (ID), Frank Gariglio (ID), Jeff Fidgen (ID)
Front row, Left to Right: Bob Logar (MT), Rob Ethridge (MT), Ralph Their (ID-DC)*

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Actions:

- The Western Joint Forestry Team developed four action items during the afternoon session. These action items will help achieve efficient forestry program delivery:

Action	Description	Outcome	Lead State	Lead Staff
1	Offer a western “pilot state” for developing a streamline process for Forest Stewardship plans and NRCS Conservation Plans. (see Joint Forestry Team Update discussion in 7/15/08 minutes)	Streamlined process with electronic integration; provide guidance for use to state forestry and NRCS staff and consultants.	Montana	Bob Logar (NRCS) Rob Ethridge (DNRC)
2	Develop Marketing and EQIP program “Fact Sheets” (target audience: landowners)	Generic program aids based on Washington NRCS materials—make available to all agencies and groups for web site, meetings, etc.	Washington	Gary Kuhn (NRCS) Nan Christianson (USFS) ²
3	Explore the use of forestry “Ecosystem Markets” in relationship to private forest conservation efforts (target audience: agencies, planners)	Assessment of what is available and evaluation of potential to incorporate these values in order to enhance EQIP delivery.	Oregon	Geoff McNaughton (Utah FFSL)
4	Develop “Success Story/Model” of coordinated forestry conservation/cost share delivery	Generic “how to” - provide guidance and ideas for states to help them develop initial partnerships/processes necessary for local EQIP implementation.	Idaho	Jeff Fidge (IDL) Frank Gariglio (NRCS) Nan Christianson (USFS)

- We will continue to utilize the membership and resources of the WFLC and WFC to coordinate efforts to efficiently reach private forest owners with 2008 Farm Bill forestry opportunities. The actions shown above can be incorporated in to Business Plans for either WFC and/or WFLC, and can be assigned completion dates.

Other Items:

- Packets of information and handouts were supplied by Ralph and Frank.
- The role of NRCS State and Local Work Groups is described in the attached document.
- Peg provided contact information for Nan and Dee as we work to accomplish the Action items:

~Nan Christianson - marketing group nchristianson@fs.fed.us 406-363-7113

~Dee Sessions - Forest Stewardship / Conservation plans task group

dsessions@fs.fed.us 901-625-5189

/s/Frank Gariglio

² Nan was suggested by Peg as a good contact for the development of public information materials.