



Sustainable Forest Action Coalition
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Organization Representatives
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**Participating
Representation from
the following:**

March 1, 2014

CALIFORNIA

Amador
Butte
Calaveras
Del Norte
El Dorado
Glenn
Inyo
Lassen
Modoc
Nevada
Placer
Plumas
Sacramento
Shasta
Siskiyou
Sierra
Tehama
Trinity
Tuolumne
Yuba

Debra Whitman
Director Ecosystem Management
Regional Office, R5
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592

RE: SFAC Sub Committee Meeting

Dear Deb:

SFAC wishes to thank you and Jerry Bird, for participating with our SFAC sub-committee. The SFAC sub-committee member present were Bill Wickman (Spokesperson), Marcia Armstrong (Siskiyou County) and Sean Curtis (Modoc County). We appreciate the continuing opportunity to meet with you in advance of our April 23rd meeting to develop and discuss the proposed agenda for the day. As previously stated, SFAC hopes that through our joint meetings that the result will be the vesting of as much authority as possible with the individual Forest Supervisory so that the individual Counties can work on the local level to resolve their individual local issues.

The following will outline our discussion and specific topic items for the agenda of April 23, 2014.

OREGON

Curry
Douglas
Jackson
Klamath
Josephine
Lake

1. Droughts impact on this year's fire season.
 - a. Provide an overview of how the Region is preparing and planning for the upcoming fire season.
 - b. How can our counties assist in this effort?
2. Farm Bill - Forestry specific items. Provide clarification and current status in relation to each of the items passed as part of the Farm Bill:

NEVADA

Nye

- a. Reaffirms that projects conducted under Categorical Exclusion (CE'S) should not be subject to Administrative Appeal.
- b. Designation by prescription (DxP) and designation by description (DxD) are authorized for all FS timber sale contracts.
- c. A limited 3,000 acre CE for use in collaborative forest management projects treating insect and disease infestations.
- d. Gives Governors greater authority in the identification of critical areas and use of insect and disease CE's on FS lands. The Sec. Of Agriculture has until April 8th (60 days from Feb. 7 enactment) to designate areas "experiencing an insect and disease epidemic" requested by a Governor as "treatment areas". These areas will then be eligible for all of the "streamlining" associated with HFRA authorities. **(Chris Fischer is Regional Office lead and has been in contact with the State)**
- e. Permanent authority of stewardship contracting.
- f. Fire liability provisions in stewardship contracts will now be the same as timber sales.
- g. EPA barred from requiring Clean Water Act permits for forests roads.
- h. Good Neighbor Authority expanded nationwide to allow states to enter into agreements to perform work on federal forests lands.
- i. Expands HFRA authorities to streamline projects in "critical areas" that have been identified as facing forest health threats.

3. Social and Economics

- a. We discussed the need to continue to work on the S/E sub group committee progress made on this issue. We voiced our concern that this critical issue not be set aside and SFAC is committed to work with your staff to finalize this effort.
- b. On February 27th during the Sierra Cascade dialog I had the opportunity to discuss this issue with Deb Whittall who has been the lead on this combined effort. Deb discussed the current matrix that Mark Metcalfe has been working on to continue to bring the ecological and S/E purpose and needs together. The final product will provide direction and a S/E matrix that will be used in future NEPA documents. This will allow the deciding official to have both elements to make an informed decision.
- c. We agreed that we will continue to finish this effort and if Deb is not available, then Mark will work with the current SFAC S/E sub-committee to bring this effort to a conclusion. At that point, it is our expectation that the Regional Forester will send a letter to all Forest Supervisor's providing direction and the matrix that each project will use to determine the appropriate S/E elements for each individual project. At that time, each County will work with the Forest or District to assist in the information needed on an individual project basis.
- d. I have attached the letter outlining the progress to date, as of May 3, 2013.

4. Discussion of how to continue to make our meetings productive and time efficient. Open discussion by all parties.
5. Current status and Forest Plan updates.
 - a. Provide an overview of bio-regional assessments and how they are being used in the development of individual forest plans.

The next items will be discussed following the first two hours. This is the time frame set by our Congressional Representatives for their participation. We will continue on the following items after a break to allow our Congressional Representatives to leave the meeting if they desire.

6. How SFAC and our counties can assist in increasing the pace and scale of ecosystem restoration.
7. Coordinating Councils and their success or need to continue to be developed by individual counties.
8. Report on accomplishments for FY13 and targets and budget for FY 14.

We also discussed that a hand-put will be provided outlining RAC funding and approval of new members.

This is an ambitious agenda for a three hour meeting so we need to be as efficient as possible in each topic area.

Thank you for your continued support of our SFAC group and we look forward to another productive meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bill Wickman and Laurel Brent-Bumb
Representatives for SFAC