



SFMA Advisory Committee Meeting, September 27, 2013.
BSP HQ and SFMA. 8:30am -4:30pm

Attendees:

SFMA Advisory Committee: Barrie Brusila, Ken Laustsen, Bob Seymour, Chip Ahrens, Gordon Mott, Craig Troeger, Aaron Weiskittel, Joe Wiley, John Bryant, Jim O'Malley, Emily Meacham, Andy Cutko. (Bryan, Dibble, Kanoti, Wilson were not able to attend)

BSP Staff: Jensen Bissell, Rick Morrill, Dee Brace, Kevin Osborne, 2013 FM Intern Ryan O'Neill and (Nick Huntington invited but could not attend).

Outside visitors: Orion Timberlands Foresters _____, and Pat Aldrich 2012 FM Intern, (Past FM interns Kelly Eldridge, Eli Shank, Steve Allen, invited but could not attend).

Meeting called to order by Morrill at 8:30am.

Morrill welcomed all.

Morrill recognized newly added committee members, John Bryant, Jim O'Malley, Emily Meacham, and Andy Cutko all of whom were in attendance. Morrill noted that Dibble, (not present) had stepped down as committee chair in July 2013 and the position remained vacant. Position to be filled in advance of the Spring 2014 committee meeting.

Minutes:

18 April 2012 – minutes reviewed and approved by unanimous vote.

July 2013 Blowdown and Subsequent Salvage Review

Morrill lead off with a short slide show of images, maps, and figures describing the July 19th, 2013 windstorm (partial tornado) that severely damaged several hundred acres of forest in the SFMA. Morrill outlined the storm event, timber loss assessment work by staff using air recon, air photos/GIS, and existing inventory data. Also reviewed the management response to the event including salvage operations to date, monitoring activities, and plans for long term research and monitoring efforts.

Discussion and questions followed, involving use of SFMA disturbance event response protocol and how that has influenced salvage operation planning and execution. Also discussed was impact of event on current management plan and harvest schedule/AAC.

Morrill explained that protocol was used to develop salvage prescriptions, and the AAC was not going to be impacted by event due to relatively small scale (roughly equal to 1 years harvest volume), and the fact that several units impacted were not likely to be entered within the next 20-30 period due to past treatment and or MU class.

Field Sites Visited

Traveled from BSP HQ to SFMA in several vehicles, arrived at first stop, 11:00am.

Tour Stop 1: Blowdown on Hagus Road

Advisory viewed impacted area along Hagus Road close to initial entry point of the wind storm on the SFMA, boundary line visible from tour stop. Area had not been salvaged yet so still in immediate post storm condition. Advisory members impressed with severity of damage, lots of "WOWs". Discussed storm path, orientation of downed timber related to tornado conditions.

Tour Stop 2: Lunch & Mgt Response Discussion in "Blowdown Class Room" on Braley Ridge Road

SFMA Staff had prepared a site for group to enter blow down and view it from "within". Discussion of research opportunities followed lunch. Suggestions to work with Shawn Fraver at UMaine to explore project options. Suggestions that study designed would need to include blow down area that received salvage treatment and those that did not. Need for permanent plots in both conditions was expressed. Morrill indicated he would pursue options for collaboration with university researchers.

Tour Stop 3: Blowdown Salvage Area on Long Pine Road

Last stop took in the recently completed salvage on the Long Pine Road. Lively discussion of application of salvage protocol commenced. Debate about adequacy of retention of downed wood post salvage consumed considerable time. Consensus was reached that the blow down had opened up an attractive view to the south towards the Traveler Mts.

Travel back to Millinocket by all. Meeting adjourned at BSP HQ 4:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Morrill

Chair SFMA Advisory Rick Morrill, BSP Resource Manager

Date: _____