

## State Forest Managers Meeting

Patapsco State Park

May 5, 2021

10am - 3pm



### Attendance:

1. Kenneth Jolly (DNR-MFS, Acting Director/State Forester)
2. George Eberling (DNR-MFS, WMD Regional Forester)
3. Matt Hurd, (DNR-MFS, EMD Regional Forester)
4. Sean Nolan (DNR-MFS - SRSF)
5. Scott Campbell (DNR-MFS - PGSF)
6. Mark Beals (DNR-MFS - GRSF)
7. Mike Schofield (DNR-MFS - CF/PSF)
8. Alex Clark (DNR-MFS - CF/PSF)
9. Jack Perdue (DNR-MFS - Forest Resource Planning)

### AGENDA

1. **Forest Certification 2020 Nonconformances**
  - **SFI - CAR:** The April 2019 Recertification Audit is not present on the SFI website, and there is no evidence/confirmation that it has been submitted.
  - Seed Mix - OFI OBS (open)
  - **FSC** - no new CARS. Observation regarding seeding from 2019 remains open.
2. **Review of Certification Standards & Compliance** - A review of the standards was conducted.
3. **Future State Forest manager meetings** (virtual vs. in-person) - It was decided that personal meetings have a benefit, so the Spring meeting will be a physical meeting, while the Fall meetings will be virtual.
4. **Savage River State Forest camping reservation system** - The reservation trial is working well at Savage River State Forest. There have been complaints, but the feedback has been mostly positive. There are 18 campsites of 80 in the reservation system now (~25%). Green Ridge State Forest could have a section on the north side, 20 sites of 80, that could be added to the reservation system. St Johns Rock ORV campsites could be added to the reservation system, too.
5. **Forest Resource Planning positions** - Two new positions will be added to the Forest Resource Planning staff. One will be a replacement for the GIS Planner (Annapolis, statewide), and the second is a new position, Western Maryland Trails Planner.
6. **Streamside Management Zones** - the revised statewide standard has modified the SMZ guidelines changing the buffer width from the 50' + 4' / % slope to 50' + 2' / % slope. The buffers on state forests harvests have been following the 50+4 rule which was justified with SCS a few years ago. The idea of adopting the 50+2 rule has been discussed with SCS. We made a formal request and it was approved after SCS reviewed our request with support from Anne Hairston-Strang and Dr. Michael Aust (Va. Tech).
7. **High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) designations** were made during the early years of our forest certification program. As we have come to have a better understanding of forest certification requirements and how HCVF functions, it has been proposed that we

reconsider our designations to better align with current forest management practices and goals. Discussions with the SCS auditor, we were advised that this is possible considering we follow our normal review processes.

8. **2021 Audit** - Auditors: Beth Jacqumain and Michelle Matteo, July 13-15. WMD-only audit. Agenda to-be-determined.
9. **Internal Silvicultural Audit** - Eastern April 27, WMD - GR June 15, PG 16, SR, 17
10. **State Forest Metrics & Quarterly Reports** - annual State forests matrix request coming.
11. **REMINDER: AWP approval procedures** (no printed copy, just signature page)
12. **Ten-Year State Forest Work Plans** - This revision on how timber sales are administered across a 10-year period will allow the State Forest managers greater ability to monitor and react to markets and current conditions such as natural regeneration. An example of such a system already in place is the MN 10-year work plan process <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/subsection/process.html>
13. **Timber Sale Contract Performance Bonds** - Bid bonds should be maintained as a means to insure only serious bidders are submitting bids on contracts. Performance bonds should be maintained at 10% of total contract. Others could be at the State Forest managers discretion. Contracts over \$100,000 must have a 10% performance bond as per state law. The Eastern Shore state forests wants an option to allow contracts on only active forest harvest sites to have posted the performance bonds, which will benefit companies with multiple open contracts.
14. **Annual Work Plan Reviews** - Since the state forests Sustainable Forest Management Plans have already undergone ID Team reviews, those harvest proposals entirely within the General Management Zones will not have to be reviewed again. This policy change will be reflected in the Timber Operations Order.
15. **AWP Reviews ID Team dates** - WMD Sept 21-23, EShore Oct 5
16. **Next SFM meeting date** - Wed, October 13, 2021

## **FOREST CERTIFICATION AUDIT PREP**

Please have the following documents and/or information prepared for the evaluation, to be reviewed onsite:

- Training records (e.g., workshops, conferences, safety courses, etc.);
- Recently completed or active timber harvest planning and monitoring documentation;
- Complaints received;
- Controversial issues (stakeholder input);
- Accident records;
- Operational plan(s) for the next 12 months;
- Inventory records;
- Chemical use records (including quantitative data on the use of pesticides, any chemical use forms, target pests);
- Records of sales of FSC-certified products; this includes copies of invoices, bills, shipping documents, as well as log load/trip tickets, timber sale contracts, and relevant bill payment documents; and
- Records of logo use approvals by SCS given in any prior year.