



## **IDAHO FOREST STEWARDSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, April 8, 2009**

Idaho Department of Lands Office  
3780 Industrial Avenue S., Coeur d'Alene  
9:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

### Welcome & Introductions – IFSAC Chair, Oscar Baumhoff presiding

Chair Oscar Baumhoff asked committee members to review the previous meeting's minutes and solicited questions/clarifications.

A MOTION by Kirk David to accept the Meeting Minutes from November 12, 2008, as written, seconded by Gordon Harnasch, unanimously approved.

### Idaho Department of Lands, Bureau of Forestry Assistance Report – Craig Foss

Craig Foss reported budget and staffing reductions for FY2009 and FY2010. A total of \$112,000 was lost in temporary personnel costs for FY2009. There is an initial reduction of \$69,000 in general fund money for FY2010 that may be followed by a second reduction. This will be addressed through salary savings for vacant positions. These vacant positions represent three Private Forestry Specialists (Kamiah, St. Maries, Cataldo) and one Forest Health & Cost Share Program Manager (Coeur d'Alene). These positions are funded through a combination of general and dedicated funds (Forest Protection Act) or general and earnings reserve (endowment) funds. It is unknown what the second holdback will be for FY2010 as it is currently being debated in the Legislature. No vacancies will be filled until funding for FY2010 has been decided. There has been approval given to hire temporary staff. Where there are PFS vacancies, it is anticipated that temporary staff will be hired using dedicated funds or funds through the Technical Service Provider agreement with NRCS. The take home message is the Bureau has a statutory responsibility to deliver the Idaho FPA. PFS staff will continue to deliver that service by inspecting at least 50% of the compliances and focus on the highest priority areas. The second priority will be Service Forestry work. The challenge will be how to prioritize so that the work gets done. Craig will have a better idea of how to accomplish this at the fall 2009 meeting. Craig does not know if the four positions will be saved and will know more once FY2010 funding settled. An increase in dedicated (Forest Practice) regulatory funds is currently under consideration by IDL in order to increase funding. Craig is hoping to bring this to the next

Legislative session (January 2010), but the Idaho Land Board must give the go ahead on the increase first. The mechanism to increase the fee must be in Idaho Code as well. Craig reported that projections are underway to determine what the fee increase would likely be but no final amount is known at this time. IDL will be working closely with the timber industry and IFOA on this issue.

Regarding economic stimulus funding package, IDL submitted \$16M in proposals to the Region. The Fire Bureau has received \$2M so far for 7-day-ready projects in four North Idaho counties. In the next round of funding, Craig hopes other projects will qualify including the Silver Valley project, an Urban & Community Forestry project with multiple counties, a forest health project on state trust lands, and some biomass/co-gen proposals in various communities. Dee Sessions reported the next batch will be announced in 30 to 60 days. Craig reiterated that BFA programs are funded through a consolidated grant process once Congress passes a budget; this will occur concurrently with economic stimulus announcements and awards.

### U.S. Forest Service Report – Dee Sessions

Dee reported he recently attended a workshop for the 2008 Farm Bill implementation in Montana. The workshop was a pilot project—one of five nationally. It covered all of the cost share programs to be implemented through the Farm Bill. Except for the Forest Legacy Program, there is authorization but no money for the other programs. As a result of the meeting, a matrix was developed outlining all the programs (USFS, NRCS, FSA) the Farm Bill addresses on forestry practices. Dee is not sure when this “train the trainer” workshop will come to Idaho—hopefully this calendar year.

Dee reported that the 2008 Farm Bill differs from what it has been in the past. One program Dee highlighted was the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program which provides grants to communities instead of individuals. For example, Montana’s Swan Valley community is purchasing land from Plum Creek under this program. It is fee simple ownership that requires public access to the property. No funding is in place for program right now. However, there will be rules and regulations by year’s end following publication in the Federal Register. Any government entity can qualify for the program. Dee also reported that the Swan Valley Mill is community owned. The program requires a board of directors to manage the property. Public access activities include camping, hunting, and fishing with perhaps some restrictions on access, i.e., road closures. This new program ties in well with the Forest Legacy Program.

Dee also reported that the Forest Stewardship Program standards and guidelines have changed. They include adding representation of the NRCS State Technical Committee (STC) to the IFSAC committee. Since Ara Andrea is a member of the STC, she will provide representation. Also, Idaho’s State Assessment of Forest Resources will replace the state’s five year Forest Stewardship Plan and address national themes. Resource elements added to the FSP standards and guidelines that must be addressed are fire and carbon cycle.

This year, S&PF will be conducting audits for Idaho’s Forest Stewardship and Forest Legacy Programs. Dee will be scheduling time with Ara this summer for the audit.

## Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) Report – Frank Gariglio

Frank Gariglio reported on the EQIP roll out under the 2008 Farm Bill in Idaho this year. There may be a gap in delivery this year as NRCS transitions into plans. There are about 30 forestry (EQIP) applications in NRCS Division 2 (Grangeville to Moscow). About half of those applications have (inaudible).

Frank will walk the Committee members through logic of EQIP delivery. Regarding language in the 2008 Farm Bill [Sec. 2506(a) (4)] –“forest management plan” (note all lower case letters) is a generic term for land use plan. However, legislatively this term comes back to the three items listed further-- item (A) “forest stewardship plan” is well-defined in the law, i.e., the Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan delivered through IDL; item (B) “another practice plan approved by the State forester” (that would be IDL); and item (C) “another plan determined appropriate by the Secretary.” This language is currently published in the Federal Register and open to public comment. In order to formulate a program that will meet the intent of the law, NRCS must take into consideration the language in the bill and public comment/opinions expressed.

Frank referenced the list of Conservation Activity Plans (CPS) authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill. Frank believes these practices will be written by Technical Service Providers (TSP) for the various types of plans depending upon the land use or the type of activity planned. CPS Practice Payment Code 106 for Forest Management Plans (FMP) —note the capital letters—means something specific to NRCS and is not a generic term. These will be TSP written according to law. Idaho has asked to be a pilot state in the effort to assist landowners without plans that have applied and been approved for EQIP funding. In the past, qualified NRCS staff would write plans, or NRCS would go to IDL for TSP assistance that provided technical information. Now, some think this provision is no longer open to NRCS and they must use the FMP. NRCS wants to use the FMP, but also wants to keep as much staffing flexibility into the possible as possible. It will be a challenge within the pilot program to describe all the elements and where they apply or not. FMPs are available to help NRCS get more work done. This was the intent of Congress; it also has the benefit of fostering a closer relationship between NRCS and state agencies by retaining the FSP products provided by state agencies.

As NRCS pilots the 2008 Farm Bill provisions in Idaho, they will retain the full nature and character of the Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan (LFSP). For example, if a landowner has an LFSP and wants to do an EQIP funded thinning or planting, the certified and approved LFSP will be the basis the landowner carries through to an EQIP contract. The LFSP must also be current. If the LFSP needs to be augmented, the TSP (either IDL or consultant forester) will help the landowner layout, design, implement, evaluate and report back to NRCS any practices they are putting in for that plan. This process will be landowner driven as to who they work with as the TSP. By default, if no consultant is involved the referral will go to the IDL PFS.

The second type of plan is the Forest Management Plan (FMP). It should look as much like a stewardship plan, as much as possible. The criteria for an FMP have been published by the NRCS national office. The FMP is an inventory and assessment of where to go to make the resource better that incorporates the objectives of the landowner. LFSPs typically stop at the level of the landowner making decision regarding specific action that will be taken. To apply

practices under EQIP, the landowner must make a decision and it needs to be documented in the FMP. In this way, the FMP asks for more than the LFSP. Frank refers to these as “additionalities.” They will include Resource Problem Inventory, CPA 52 (environmental assessment), and an Addendum. This will allow NRCS personnel to move landowner information to the contracting platform. The Addendums will be part of item 3.2 (Forest Stewardship Plans-NRCS EQIP cost share eligible).

The members discussed the requirement under cost shared LFSPs for inventory/cruise data. Frank reported that the FMP has no statistical parameters and is not just timber –based—there would be evaluation for other resources, i.e., wildlife, roads, etc. The FMP needs to document the before and after conditions and back up with some sort of scientific evidence that you are meeting some target density on the pre-treatment or some qualitative description to describe a stand. Feedback from Committee members follows: Depending on client, the requirement for documenting standing inventory can help or hurts consulting foresters. Most landowners are not seeking a standing inventory to use as a basis to sell the resource. They primarily want the plan in order to plant and/or thin. For the purpose of FMPs where landowners are cost sharing planting and thinning, etc., is probably does not need to be as high of level of inventory as perhaps what the Stewardship entity has required in the past. It is legitimate to ask landowners to provide stocking number and species composition. A density cruise was suggested. Chris Schnepf currently teaching a mensuration class, so wants to have the content pegged to criteria for plans in terms of what is required. Frank reported that the goal is for landowners to come away from this process with a basic understanding of ecology management, to know what resources they have, and to be better informed to make good, sound management decisions.

Discussion followed about Idaho’s Forest Stewardship guidelines changing to incorporate carbon sequestration. In terms of where the nation is headed with biomass utilization and carbon sequestration, this may change the way the resource inventory is viewed on landowners’ property in the future. The Committee should consider how best to manage these resource and continue to visit the utilization issue. Future growth models for carbon sequestration may require matching the level of inventory to proposed practices, whatever they are. It would be helpful to know what the minimum data required to plug into the model.

Frank continued to list the FMP plan types acceptable in EQIP: item 3.3, BIA Tribal Forest Management Plans and, item 3.4, University of Idaho Extension Lead Forest Management Class Plan that includes Tree Farm plans, individual plans by qualified landowners. Frank would like IDL PFS staff to continue to sign off on FMPs. Under item 4—NRCS Toolkit generated Plans— if NRCS (trained) staff can provide them, they will write a plan for applicants that come in without a plan. The discussion followed about county tax plans—generally speaking, they are not included in the EQIP cost-share program. They would not necessarily be precluded, but they may have additional costs for needed documentation. The FMP will require a high level of planning and NRCS will review to see if a particular plan meets their requirements.

Frank provided information on TechReg for those interested in becoming a registered TSP (<http://techreg.usda.gov>). Frank reported NRCS is becoming more visible nationally. They have a long range strategic assessment available through their internet site. On May 4, 2009, the NRCS national forester will be hosting a web event to talk about NRCS’s new role in forestry.

Frank reported he is pursuing a potential sign-up for 106 Activity Plans with funding in the range of \$15-20K.

### 2008 Farm Bill Report – Ara Andrea

Ara reported as a result of the 2008 Farm Bill, there will be changes at IDL in regards to the US Forest Service Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) and the EQIP Forest Management Plan (FMP).

Within the FSP, the 5-year state plan will be replaced by the State Assessment of Forest Resources (SAFR), the resulting strategy and response plan, and annual accomplishment reporting. This is a tool that IDL will use to determine priority areas for competitive grant projects. It is anticipated that other stakeholders involved in the SAFR process will utilize the result for their own project work and in partnership with others.

Ara provided the Committee with an example map of what the assessment might look like when completed. Project work will occur in high priority areas within the assessment. IDL will report annually where and how federal funds are spent and who we worked with to leverage the funds.

Regarding the NRCS EQIP program, Ara reported that within the 2008 Farm Bill there is now a separate provision for forestry projects. Now when a forestry plan or practice is ranked by a local working group, it will only be ranked against like (forestry) plans or practices. However, the State NRCS, in conjunction with the local working group, will decide if any funding goes into the forestry “pigeon hole.”

Under the Farm Bill provisions, an applicant for EQIP practice funding must now have a forest management plan of some sort. Frank Gariglio reported on the types that are eligible to be considered an “fmp.” However, if a landowner does not have a qualifying management plan already, a FMP can be cost-shared provided there is funding available and it is prepared by a qualified TSP planner. As an FMP pilot state, Idaho will help define how this process will work throughout the Western states.

Regarding her recent attendance at the NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting, Ara reported that forestry representatives were few when compared to other stakeholder groups. Also, the February 2009 revision to the FSP national standards and guidelines require STAC representation on the IFSAC and SAFR committees. NRCS has been contacted to request that Kirk David serve as the STAC representative on IFSAC and Ara serve as the STAC representative to SAFR.

Discussion followed regarding training for LFSP preparers about “fire” and “carbon cycle” resources that are to be included in future LFSPs. Ara reported the carbon cycle information needed will be defined by Chicago Climate Exchange and the Aggregator. There are various methods and software packages available to measure this depending upon the Aggregator.

Discussion continued regarding re-inspection and monitoring of LFSP plans. The US Forest Service has proposed a random sample monitoring program for the FSP. Two different

formulas/methods exist for parcels less than 1,000 acres and greater than 1,000 acres. Dee will follow-up with Ara regarding the monitoring requirements.

The Committee discussed the need for LFSPs to meet NRCS cost share requirements in order to fund EQIP practices. LFSPs in some cases will need to have additional documentation (called additionalities) to meet NRCS requirements for all resource issues. There are LFSPs that are current and approved that do not have carbon cycle and fire resources addressed. NRCS FMPs will not be required to have the two new resource categories, but new FSP LFSPs will.

Craig extended his thanks, on behalf of IDL, to Frank Gariglio, Kirk David and Jeff Fidgen for moving the new EQIP efforts along.

Ed Schneider requested information/statistics about management plans registered in Idaho and who management efforts have been focused on by this committee. IDL maintains a database for LFSPs. The Idaho Tree Farm maintains a record of Tree Farm plans. IDL just completed the Idaho Forest Stewardship Spatial Analysis Project that reflects where LFSPs are located in relation to stewardship suitability criteria and ranks them High, Medium, or Low priority areas.

*Follow-up Item:* Suzie Jude reported on the 2008 results of the Forest Stewardship Spatial Analysis Project which found that less just under 1 percent (0.90) of stewardship capable acres in Idaho are enrolled in the Forest Stewardship Program and have Landowner Forest Stewardship Plans.

#### Forest Legacy Program Report (FLP) – Ed Warner

Ed Warner reported for FY2008, the program closed on Gold Creek Ranch. The second FY2008 project at Trow Creek is a donated easement of 370 acres and sponsored by Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. The FLP will provide an administrative grant of \$15,000 towards the closing and an additional \$25,000 will come from the Idaho Department of Transportation (elk mitigation fund) to pay for the appraisal and other due diligence costs.

Ed reported that FY2009 funding for Gold Ck Phase II came from national carry-over funds.

FY 2010 projects moving through USFS system. McArthur Lake scored #3 nationally and sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, but must still go through the Congressional appropriations process. The Bane Creek project, sponsored by Vital Ground, is recommended for partial funding in the President's Budget. Phase II of Bane Creek will be submitted for FY2011.

Ed reported that FLP is accepting applications for FY2011 until the end of May 2009. Applications received to date include Christmas Tree Hills, covering 4,085 acres in 6 parcels located in Boundary, Bonner and Benewah counties, and Bane Creek Phase II. Christmas Tree Hills will be co-sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, Vital Ground Foundation, and the Clark Fork Conservancy.

Discussion followed regarding the national FLP funding process and how projects are ranked first by the state and then by the US Forest Service. Total national funding has been in the \$40-50M range. Most each state can submit is \$10M per year and most state can receive is \$7M. Most individual projects don't exceed \$3-3.5M. It is now rare to see an individual project under \$1M.

Craig Foss presented Ed Warner with the US Forest Service Certificate of Appreciation for participation on the 2008 Intermountain and Northern Regions Forest Legacy Implementation Team. Both Ed and Dee Sessions served on the team and received the Chief's Award for Conserving Open Space.

### Strengthening Stewardship Skills & Master Forest Steward Programs Report – Chris Schnepf

Chris reported the Strengthening Stewardship programs are going well with no class cancellations so far this year. The "Ties to the Land" class, Kirk David facilitated, received good feedback. A new program will be offered this year – Measuring Your Forest Trees. Since Randy Brooks has been away for a family emergency, Kirk, Chris and Ron (Mahoney) will fill in for Randy when the class starts in May.

Master Forest Steward training continues with a retreat with the committee of forest owners to fine tune the training and a position description for the volunteers. A notice went out to all past Forestry Short Course attendees soliciting interest and an application for the MFS program. Chris has received a good response from interested persons and his goal is to have about 20 applicants.

Chris reported that he met with Association of Consulting Foresters to discuss the MFS program and its direction. As a result, a new operating name came about—the Idaho Master Forest Steward Program.

Chris shared the MFS instructional objectives (over 100) with the Committee. Participants must meet minimum knowledge requirements that they will be evaluated on through proctored testing (perhaps IDL forestry staff). Participant training will be 70 hours and include the Forestry Short Course (prerequisite to the program) plus additional training in identification of series levels of habitat types, noxious weed identification, etc.

The first session of training will take place at the Palouse Divide Lodge focusing on family forests and orientation to the program and policies. There will a knowledge assessment and field exercises. There will be a "cross pollination" with Master Gardener & volunteer participants to share their perspective. The second session will focus on being a "walking Naturalist" and held at the Extension office where there is a plant clinic and Master Gardeners. The third session will be held at the Priest River Experimental Forest and focus on how to be a volunteer forestry educator. The next session will provide an opportunity for participants to give a short presentation on what they might do as part of their MFS work with the public. They will also have a panel of staff from various agencies and groups the volunteers might work with (IDL, ACF, NRCS). The final session will be held at St. Gertrude's Monastery and will focus on leadership skills and agency participation on how to work with volunteer and public policy groups. Chris would like MFS participants "shadow" professionals for a day also and do a write

up about experience. They will develop case studies to post for others to review online. Finally, the participants will rendezvous in the fall to celebrate completion of training program. MFS volunteers will wear special green cruiser vests. Chris will provide guidance for participants on what things they may not do as a MFS and the separation of duties from other professional responsibilities while working as a MFS volunteer.

Chris also reported that he and Janean Creighton (WSU Extension) have applied for a grant through USFS PNW Research Station to do a series of focus groups across the Northwest on Family Forest Owners and Climate Change—What are their opinions, What do they want to know more about it, and How can Extension help them (education and assistance)?

#### Forest Land Enhancement Program Report – Ara Andrea

Ara reported FLEP accomplishments for CY2008 and YTD accomplishments for CY2009. Available FLEP cost share funds are mostly allocated with a remaining balance of \$10,957. It is anticipated the remaining unallocated funds will be fully allocated and spent by the end of the state fiscal year on June 30, 2009. Frank Gariglio suggested that IDL extend the deadline to spend available for LFSP development until and when EQIP management plan funding comes available.

A MOTION by Frank Gariglio to utilize remaining unauthorized FLEP funds for cost share applications for Landowner Forest Stewardship Plans. Committee discussion—remaining FLEP funds presently have this limitation. MOTION died for lack of a second.

Craig Foss clarified 2005 FLEP funds will end September 30, 2009, and 2006 FLEP funds will end September 30, 2010. Dee will verify these expiration dates. Craig explained the goal was always to make the 2006 funds (\$35K) available until EQIP comes on line for plan development.

#### Forest Practices Act Report – Ara Andrea

IDL's year end FPA Report is available online on the IDL website. Ara reported a 37% drop in total 2008 FPA Notifications from 2007. Each Supervisory Area's goal is to inspect 50% of compliances. Operators are receiving more visits from PFSs currently. Satisfactory inspections by IDL PFS's came to 98% of all compliance inspections.

*Follow-up Item:* Ed Warner suggested a breakdown of notifications on a quarterly basis for 2009.

Ara reported that FPA issues that continue to be troublesome are ground based equip in the stream protection zone which is not allowed unless a variance is issued. It's Ara's goal to have this issue addressed consistently throughout the state. Some operators want to go into the SPZ when there is 4 feet of slash or snow—they need a variance. The second issue is the Class II SPZ standing tree minimum rule during and after operations, including broadcast burn. In upper reaches in a bowl, radiant heat can take out trees. There must be retained 140 sub-merchantable stems per 1,000 feet that is relatively continuous distribution with up to 50% snags. If you are harvesting in the SPZ, consult with your IDL PFS before operations begin.

Area reported on the FP Quadrennial Audit for Water Quality. The audit had three components: FPA rule compliance, detailed riparian area inventories, and a special review of stream crossings under stream channel alteration permits for fish passage.

The compliance audits took place at 43 locations on federal, state, private industrial and private non-industrial land ownership. The results continue to look good with continued upward movement in compliance audits to assure protection of clean water. Ara commented that the NIPF results may reflect the very small percentage of NIPF's where they are likely to find a logger or family member without the benefit of LEAP training or ignorance of existing FPA rules.

Results of the stream crossings audit were stratified by area and polled where there had been CLASS I stream crossing permit on file with IDL. Inspections were made by IDL Interdisciplinary Team. Of the 23 crossings audited, 10 had structures that simulated the stream bottom which all passed. Of the remaining 13 non-imbedded culverts, 9 failed and 4 passed. This would indicate there are still problems. Ara reviewed IDWR fish passage criteria. She concluded installations don't look good and inspections are problematic. As a result, all 5 LEAP presentations received stream crossing classes and field training. Attendees included loggers, forest managers and IDL staff.

#### Forest Health Program Report – Tom Eckberg

Tom Eckberg, Forest Health Specialist, reviewed 2008 aerial survey data with key pests mountain pine beetle (1M acres in mostly lodgepole pine, and some high elevation white bark pine), spruce budworm (fairly high activity in the IPNF), and fir engraver (lower elevation areas). Some areas of the state were not flown in years past, so the numbers for mountain pine beetle have bumped up as a result. Mountain pine beetle trouble spots are the Bitterroot Mountains, Shoshone County, and Southeast Idaho in higher elevation lodgepole pine, 100 years in age, 8 inches or larger, that should have burned or been harvested in the past. Mountain pine beetle have been detected in the Nez Perce Forest, Salmon Challis, the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA), and in Caribou County. Tom provided a handout that Jim Rineholt prepared on the work he's done in the SNRA where both mountain pine and Douglas-fir bark beetles are declining.

Fir engraver has increased in affected trees on state and private lands between 2007 and 2008. It is an opportunist and can follow many conditions that weaken grand fir trees.

Tom reported on subalpine fir pests: balsam wholly adelgid and western spruce budworm – affected acres bumping up on federal, state and private acres. Overall low acres were reported for Douglas-fir tussock moth, but some areas of North Idaho have increasing numbers in traps. There is no defoliation in the woods, but some has occurred at USFS Nursery property affecting blue spruce; this recurs every 8-10 years and now we are looking at 3 years out.

Tom also reported on western larch frost damage here and in Eastern Washington and Western Montana. This may be due to snow in Spokane on June 6, 2008. Tom Davis noted this type of discoloration about 4,000 feet elevation in Shoshone County.

#### State Assessment of Forest Resources Report — Dave Stephenson

Dave Stephenson reviewed the purpose of assessment— What are key issues that affect forests or are affected by forests and where are these issues located? The SAFR is a 2008 Farm Bill requirement in order to receive federal grant program funds. The SAFR will be a useful tool to wide group of stakeholders. It will tell Congress what's happening on the ground and where the areas of greatest need are located. IDL will use the SAFR as a means of coordinating and leveraging resources with partners on joint projects. After the assessment is completed, a strategy plan will be developed. SAFR, like SAP, is a geospatial assessment but a more complicated project in the approach. SAFR will consider non-geospatial information to help inform the final assessment and the response plan.

In June 2008, IDL sought input from a multi-agency group to develop a list of priority issues for use in the FFY2009 competitive grant project effort. SAFR was officially kicked-off with a stakeholder meeting in Fall 2008 and was attended by representatives from many organizations and agencies. The meeting was meant to introduce the assessment, garner buy-in from stakeholders, and round out the list of priority resource issues from the earlier meeting. As part of the meeting, a subset of representatives from the larger group was identified and became the SAFR core group. IFSAC members are part of the larger stakeholder group. Members of the core team are Steve Kimball, Dave Stephenson, Mike Bowman, Frank Gariglio, Craig Glazier, Kurt Mettler, Robin Miller, Bob Unnasch, Steve Winward, Mike DeArmond, and Greg Servheen. The core group has developed a list of key issues similar to the recommended issues in the national guidance. The list includes threats and benefit and include forest health, wildfire impacts, conversion of forest land (loss of forest canopy), recreation pressure, wildlife, water quality and quantity, air quality, economic pressure/sustainable communities (where are economic benefits from forest – mill locations/biomass facilities, resource locations), healthy forest ecosystems & rare plant communities, and connecting (people) with nature. The core group is currently working with IDL GIS staff to develop individual data layers from the best available and existing data sets. Timeline for completing the assessment is June 2009 and completion of the response plan June 2010.

Dave invited IFSAC members to visit the IDL Internet site to review progress on the assessment. The next SAFR meeting will take place in May. If IFSAC members have input to the process, please direct them through your agency or organization representative on the stakeholder group. Dave will email committee members when new postings are on the website. IFSAC input is critical.

#### Competitive Grants Report – Mary Fritz

Mary reported that five project applications were submitted for FFY2009 and Idaho was awarded three –Silver Valley, Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, and Grimes-Moores Creek. No funding has been received yet. Application for FFY2010 will be scaled back to a single submission for

the Treasure Valley canopy assessment. The application deadline is September 10, 2009. Mary reported on a potential cooperative project with Montana in the Clark Fork Valley drainage. The funding cap is \$300K for a single project and for a multistate application there is a \$150K cap for each state.

Dave Stephenson reported on the FFY2008 Rathdrum Prairie project; it is a canopy analysis in the study area with multiple partners. The project will generate baseline data for cities to use for air quality, storm water mitigation, and carbon credits. It will utilize green infrastructure for functional benefits, model future planning scenarios, inform development, etc. The Treasure Valley application will hopefully fund a similar project. Dave reported there was a good turnout for the town meeting last month in the Treasure Valley. This project will primarily address air quality issues—the community wants to avoid non-attainment.

Mary reported that a social marketing workshop to be hosted by IDL on April 16<sup>th</sup> is getting the attention of family forest owners. Also, the NASF redesign report card highlights competitive grant projects by states in FFY09. Mary suggested that IFSAC may want to pursue some additional outreach projects like those highlighted in report by other states. Mary reported Ara is IDL project lead for FFY2009 Spokane Valley Rathdrum Aquifer project. Kirk David asked if a component of SVRA project is the family forest field day and asked what IFSAC participation could be with this project.

IDL does not have staff to pursue additional projects in light of budget constraints, managing stimulus grants and emergency supplemental projects.

#### New Business - Committee

The Idaho State Forestry Contest is scheduled for Thursday, May 14, 2009, at Delay Farms in Athol. Additional volunteers are needed for the contest.

IFSAC membership updates were provided by Ara Andrea. Arleen Pence will be rotating off the committee and Ed Schneider has joined the meeting today as a potential NIPF representative. Ara reviewed the roster of current voting and ex-officio members. The Forest Stewardship Program National Standards and Guidelines require voting representatives from the Farm Service Agency, Soil & Water Conservation District, environmental organizations, tribes, and other relevant interests.

A MOTION by Frank Gariglio for John DeGroot to serve as a voting member on behalf of the Nez Perce Tribe, Gordon Harnasch seconded, unanimously approved. John will check with tribal authority for permission to serve and will get back to the committee.

Discussion followed about extending invitations to other unrepresented positions. Does FSA have a function on the IFSAC? It was determined that FSA is now further away from EQIP funding. SWCD would be appropriate to serve on IFSAC. Kirk David reported that he and Kim Golden have asked Ed Schneider to volunteer on the committee as NIPF-north representative. Oscar is still working with some potential NIPF representatives in southern Idaho.

Kirk reported that in early days of IFSAC all groups were invited to participate, but some did not want to continue their participation. Regarding SWCD, Ara will invite someone from local association to see if they have a forestry related person willing to serve.

Regarding appointed member positions, a letter should go to groups that are represented and whose terms have expired to nominate this person or someone else. Tom Davis reported he is willing to continue serving on the committee, but knows there is interest from other parties to participate. Tom requested that if he goes off the committee as a voting member, he'd like to remain as an ex-officio. Gordon Harnasch is willing to continue as local government representative. Ara will contact Idaho Association of Cities for a nominee, but will state Gordon is the committee's preferred candidate. Kim Golden is the preferred candidate for SWCD, but Ara will contact the Association of Resource Conservation District Councils for a nominee. Ara will contact Intermountain Forest Association regarding Jane Wittmeyer's continuing participation. It was recommended the Committee keep staggered appointments according to the IFSAC operating procedures, going out two years for continuity.

A MOTION by Kirk David for Ed Schneider to be submitted as an appointee to the committee, Oscar Baumhoff seconded, unanimously approved.

A MOTION by Frank Gariglio for appointed officers Oscar Baumhoff and Robyn Miller to continue serving until the Fall 2009 IFSAC meeting, seconded by Gordon Harnasch, unanimously approved.

The next IFSAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23, 2009, at the IDL Office in Coeur d'Alene.

Meeting adjourned 3:15 p.m.

List of Attendees

Oscar Baumhoff, IFSAC Chair	Idaho Forest Owners Association
G. Kirk David (member)	Idaho State Technical Committee
Gordon Harnasch (member)	Kootenai County
Tom Johnson (guest)	Idaho Department of Lands
Mary Terra-Berns (member)	Idaho Department of Fish & Game
Craig Foss (ex-officio)	Idaho Department of Lands
John DeGroot (ex-officio)	Nez Perce Tribe
Ed Warner (guest)	Idaho Department of Lands
Jennifer Childers (guest)	Intermountain Forest Association
Jim Colla (guest)	Northwest Management, Inc.
Chris Schnepf (member)	Cooperative Extension System
Tom Davis (member)	Consulting Forester
Ed Schneider (guest)	Non-Industrial Private Forest Owner
Ara Andrea, IFSAC Secretary	Idaho Department of Lands
David Stephenson (guest)	Idaho Department of Lands
Frank Gariglio (member)	USDA – NRCS
Dee Sessions (member)	USDA – State & Private Forestry R-1/4
Tom Eckberg (guest)	Idaho Department of Lands
Suzie Jude (guest)	Idaho Department of Lands