

Tanana Valley State Forest Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting

October 19, 2017; 6:00 pm-8:00 pm
DNR, Large Conference Room, Fairbanks

Approved Minutes

Attendees:

State Employees

Doug Hanson
Matt Stevens
Jim Schwarber
Peter Talus (via phone)
Kevin Meany
Rafael Rodriquez

CAC Members (Representing)

Dan Rees (Private Forest User)
Milt Behr (Mining Industry)
Jason Knoles- (Timber Industry)
Fabian Keirn (Native Community)
Brad Cox (Value-added Processing)
Kristin Timm (via phone -Recreation)
Tom Malone, Chair (Forest Science)

Public

n/a

Minutes from the previous meeting on April 20, 2017 were approved with no corrections.

Announcements:

Four CAC member terms are expiring on December 31, 2017; please reapply

- Jason Knoles – Forest Industry
- Chris Stark – Environmental Interests
- Fabian Keirn – Native Community
- Paul Karczmarczyk – Fish & Wildlife Interests

Joint SAF / ANFC Spring 2018 Symposium on Carbon Credits / Urban Forestry

- Tentatively scheduled for First week April 5-7, 2018 – Tok or Fairbanks
- Board of Forestry Meeting by Teleconference on Nov. 29th

New Business: None

Old Business:

Young Growth Forestry Project Update by Doug Hanson

The 3-year Tongass Young Growth Inventory Project is in support of the federal policy to transition from Old Growth to Young Growth timber harvesting in the Tongass National Forest in the next 10-15 years. A staff of ten is managed by DOF, who is doing the work for the Forest Service. There is one more summer of fieldwork to complete. An important part of this project is to calculate the percentage of 'fall down' acres – those acres that cannot be harvested due to being within no-cut stream buffers or shoreline

buffers. Early estimates indicate that there will be at least a 36% reduction in harvestable volume; and perhaps up to 50% reduction once all things are factored in. This high level of fall down suggests there may be a need to revise the Tongass Forest Plan – which is based upon Old Growth management prescriptions that may not be suited to managing Young Growth-only harvesting in limited areas.

Interior Alaska Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Project Update by Matt Stevens

This FIA Project is a cooperative agreement between DOF the US Forest Service

- Part of a national program doing forest inventory across all land ownerships
- Interior Alaska is the last region to be inventoried
- About 11,300 plots will be established in Alaska
- Helicopters are used as primary access to remote locations
- 12 field crew trained to do work
- A big challenge are the interagency policy differences bet. DOF/FS; hiring, etc.
- In 2018, will hire 22 workers
- Many cooperators: USFS, Anchorage Forest Sciences Laboratory, TCC, UAF, UAA, NASA, BLM, and FWS.
- May take 10-12 years to get all plots installed, at up to 400 plots a year

Update on the Fairbanks/Delta Area by Kevin Meany

- DOF has filled two positions: Rafael Rodrigues; and Egil Fjellheim
- Auction for Delta under development; personal use sales of firewood from ROW decks
- Winter crossing on Delta River for public use/access
- Currently 30 active sales
- DOF working with Whitestone Farms to improve road access
- Six sales in the winter auction; currently 105 active sales
- Reforestation planting will take place in 2018; though fresh seed is needed
- GIS folks added forest inventory information layer for TVSF
- DOF continues to work with the borough on the Pete Simpson Road.

Tok Area Update by Pete Talus

- Personnel update: new Tok Area Forester is Derek Nellis; started this summer mid-June
- In 2017, 14 fires totaling about 800 acres burned in Tok Area
- In November, the Tok FYSTS revision will begin (Five Year Schedule Timber Sales)
- 20 active sales; with 8 operators
- DOF will administer the personal use permits for BLM/Tanacross lands
- Tok School low-pressure boiler to come on-line soon.
- This Fall's SAF Aspen Workshop was exciting – brought a wide-range of folks together

Public Comments: None

CAC member comments:

- Kristin Timm asked for more information on the Aspen Workshop as model for bringing folks together; Tom Paragi has written a document about the Aspen Workshop
- Milt mentioned DOT is providing free firewood 9-miles from Ester as part of a clearing road project.
- Dan Rees liked the Aspen Workshop and Tok portion;
 - He commented DOF closing timber road access due to timber theft affects public use

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for **January 25, 2018** in Fairbanks; same time and location.

Meeting adjourned about 8:00 pm.

TVSF CAC website: http://forestry.alaska.gov/tvsf_committee.htm