

WRIA 54 Land Use Work Group Meeting

04/18/2008

Attendees: Sara Hunt (Ecology), Rob Lindsay (Spokane County), Lloyd Brewer (City of Spokane), Mike Hermanson (Spokane County), Stan Miller (citizen), David Luders (Indian Village Estates Water Assoc.), Wes McCart (Stevens County Farm Bureau, Stevens County Water Conservancy Board and landowner), Craig Volosing (Palisades Neighborhood and landowner), Christy Lafayette (Spokane County Building and Planning).

Facilitated by: Bryony Stasney (Golder Associates).

Presentation on Forest Practices by Guy Gifford (Washington State DNR)

WA DNR has a number of roles:

1. Forest land manager
2. Regulator for forest practices
3. Assistance for small landowners (recommendations on how to log / cost share)
4. Fire fighting.

In Spokane, Stevens and Lincoln Counties, DNR regulates forest land > 20 acres. In Stevens and Lincoln Counties, DNR approves all forest practice application permits. Lincoln County is currently working with DNR to gain training and authority to address permits for forest practice applications on land holdings between 10 – 20 acres. In Spokane County, DNR and Spokane County consider permits for forest practice applications on land holdings between 10 – 20 acres. DNR is training Spokane County staff on how to type waters in accordance with DNR's classification.

Lincoln County does not have a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Stevens County should have an approved CWPP in the next couple of months. Spokane County has an approved CWPP in place.

Q: How do canopy densities affect the watershed (runoff and timing)?

A: Since DNR has scattered ownership within WRIA 54, it is difficult to make this determination.

Q: Are there practices that DNR controls that may make a difference in water flow?

A: DNR does not take water yield into account and does not have canopy stand management objectives (the National Forest does have canopy stand management objectives). However, DNR does manage for forest production and good soil moisture retention is a component of forest production.

Q: Does DNR educate landowners on water yield? Are there licensing requirements for foresters in WA?

A: No.

Following discussion, the Group agreed to add the following possible solutions to the issues paper:

- Recommend that DNR consider watershed management and delayed surface water yields in management of state trust lands.
- Recommend that DNR educate landowners on watershed management and delayed surface water yields including benefits of planting seral species.
- Recommend that Spokane County, Stevens County and Lincoln County educate landowners on watershed management and delayed surface water yields including benefits of planting seral species.

GOALS

Group reviewed the goals for land use in WRIA 54 (see below). Christy / Bruce will confirm that Spokane County Building and Planning supports the goal “Strive for sustainable land use development.”

- Strive for consistency and coordination between the WRIA 54 Watershed Plan and local land use plans and development regulations.
- Coordinate water availability and areas of development.
- Strive for sustainable land use development. *Spokane County Planning will discuss.*
- Support property owners’ rights, including legal access to water.
- Support public access to water for recreation.

ISSUES

Group started to review the preliminary draft land use issue paper (which incorporates the issues and potential solutions). The Group completed review of page 3 and agreed to receive the draft issue paper for review and comment via email.

Next meetings

The Land Use Work Group did not schedule an additional meeting.