

Agricultural Burning Practices & Research Task Force #69 Meeting Summary

DATE: February 8, 2007

LOCATION: Department of Ecology Eastern Regional Office, Spokane WA.

<u>Members Present</u>		<u>Representing</u>
Karen Wood- Chair	Air Quality Program	Department of Ecology
Bob Gore	WA. Dept. of Agricultural	WA. Dept. of Agriculture
Jay Penner	Washington Association of Wheat Growers	Agricultural Community
Michael Ingham	Alfalfa Seed Industry	Agricultural Community
Dave Lauer	Benton County Clean Air Authority	Eastern Washington Local Air Authorities
Michael Bush	WSU Extension	Academia, (Tree Fruit)
John Cornwall	Grass Seed Industry	Grass Seed Industry
Bill Johnston	Washington State University	Academia, (Crop & Soil)
<u>Members Absent</u>		
Larry Cochran	WA. Assn. of Conservation Districts	Conservation Districts
Sally Liu	University Of Washington	Public Health

Introductions, Announcements

The 69th Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force (Task Force) meeting was held on February 8th, 2007, at the Department of Ecology's Eastern Regional Office in Spokane, Washington. The Task Force meeting began with the introduction of Task Force members and guests.

The February meeting is reserved for hearing research project reports, scoping future funding needs and discussing research direction. Per the Task Force Governance Document it is also scheduled for scoping changes and discussion about Best Management Practices, (BMP's).

Daily Burn Decision System Review (under revised ag burn rule)

Tim Connor, representing Save Our Summers, presented a review he conducted of the daily agricultural burning decision process under the revised Agricultural Burning Rule. The report he prepared is available below.

[Save Our Summers report on Fall 2006 burn decision process](#)

Research Update Presentations

The four research projects the Task Force recommended funding during the 2005-2007 biennium are coming to a close and researchers were invited to share their results at this meeting. Each of the presenters discussed what they had accomplished over the past 18 months, how their research was progressing, problems they had encountered, and solutions they were trying.

All presentations are in PDF format and are located below,

[Eastern Washington Straw Residue as a Viable Fiber Source:](#)

[Direct Seeding into heavy irrigated residue as Alternative to Burning:](#)

[Alternatives to Alfalfa Burning:](#)

[Development of 'High Yielding Kentucky Bluegrass for Non-thermal Seed Production:](#)

Task Force discussion

Following the four research presentations the Task Force discussed:

- What direction they would like to see for further research
- Economic analysis of the projects
- How does the "average farmer" use the research
- Publishing research in agricultural media venues

The next round of research grant money should stress quantifying the impacts from orchard burning.

The Task Force asked to have Ecology draft a Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit research grant proposals for the 2007-2009 funding cycle which begins July 1, 2007.

Submitted proposals should be distributed to Task Force prior to the next meeting.

BMP's

Ecology requested minor changes to the *Bale Burn BMP*.

The Task Force accepted the changes as written.

Ecology submitted proposed minor changes to the *Cereal Grain Crops BMP* as requested by the Task Force at meeting #68. These were accepted, with a few small alterations.

General Questions and Comments

Charlie Stansel, representing the Yakima Regional Clean Air Authority, requested a future agenda topic for the task force be the subject of acre equivalents for orchard burning at the June, 2007 meeting.

ABTF Meeting #69
February 8, 2007
Page 3 of 3

The next meeting will be held in Walla Walla on June 14th, 2007.