

Agricultural Burning Practices & Research Task Force #85 Meeting Summary

DATE: February 7, 2012

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

<u>Members Present</u>		<u>Representing</u>
Jay Penner	Washington Association of Wheat Growers	Agricultural Community
Dan McCarthy	Okanogan Horticultural Association	Agricultural Community
Larry Cochran	WA. Assn. of Conservation Districts	Conservation Districts
Michael Ingham	Alfalfa Seed Industry	Agricultural Community
Don Potts	WA. Dept. of Agricultural	WA. Dept. of Agriculture
Bill Johnston	Washington State University	Academia, (Crop & Soil)
<u>Alternates Present</u>		
Kary Peterson- Chair	Air Quality Program	Department of Ecology
<u>Members Absent</u>		
Karen Wood- Chair	Air Quality Program	Department of Ecology
Michael Bush	WSU Extension	Academia, (Tree Fruit)
Sverre Vedal	University Of Washington	Public Health
Gary Pruitt	Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency	Eastern Washington Local Air Authorities

Introductions, Announcements

The 85th Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force (Task Force) meeting was held on February 7th, 2012, 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 updating the Task Force on the Agricultural Burning Program costs and revenues, 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).

Research Update Presentations

The research projects Ecology funded during the 2011-2013 biennium are midway through the funding cycle and researchers were invited to share their preliminary results at this meeting. The presenters discussed what they had accomplished over the past 6 months, how their research was progressing, problems they had encountered, and solutions they were trying. The presentations are in PDF format and are located below:

[Straw Management Research Presentation Spring 2012](#)

And

[Canola Research Presentation Spring 2012](#)

Agricultural Burn Program Costs and Revenues

Kary Peterson, from Ecology's Eastern Regional Office, presented a chart showing how the increase in the agricultural burning permit fee (mostly the per acre field burn permit fee going from \$2.25/acre to \$3.00/acre on January 1, 2011) has increased how much the Agricultural Burning Program brings in from permit fee revenue. He also estimated that the total permit fee revenue at the end of the current Fiscal Year (FY12) would be about \$250,000 as compared to the program cost of approximately \$335,000. Mr. Peterson also mentioned that the number of acres permitted was relatively high in the Fall of 2011, resulting in relatively high revenue, and that these numbers shift up and down from season to season.

BMP's

Mr. Peterson shared with the Task Force a concern about the burning of land to which herbicide had been applied after the harvest and then been allowed to sit fallow for a season (chem.-fallow). The subsequent burn had been so complete that a farmer in Walla Walls County had failed the National Resources Conservation Service requirements for minimum residue. Ecology wanted to know whether a Best Management Practice should be created or modified to prevent future occurrences of similar problems. After discussion, Ecology and the task force members saw no need for changes to the Best Management Practices, though Ecology will work on possible changes to the Field Burn Permit Application to more closely track burning of this nature in the future.

The next meeting will be held June 12, 2012.