

Agricultural Burning Practices & Research Task Force #90 Meeting Summary

DATE: November 12, 2013

LOCATION: Washington State Dept. of Ecology, Eastern Regional Office, Spokane WA.

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

Introductions, Announcements

The 90th Task Force meeting was held at the Washington State Department of Ecology Eastern Regional Office in Spokane, Washington. The Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force (Task Force) meeting began at 10:00AM with the introduction of Task Force members and guests.

The November meeting is reserved for a yearly agricultural burning program recap and a discussion about the previous year's burn season. The November meeting is also scheduled for scoping changes and discussion about Best Management Practices, (BMP's).

Fall Burn Season 2013 Recap

Kary Peterson, Department of Ecology, (Ecology), Eastern Regional Office presented the 2013 agricultural burning recap. The Outdoor Burn Unit helped to host a US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-sponsored smoke management conference which included the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, the Coeur d'Alene and Nez Perce tribes. The total acres permitted for agricultural burning in 2013 was 154,885. This number will probably decrease by between 10,000 to 15,000 acres after refunds for unburned acres are issued in December. The number of complaints about agricultural burning was 26 in 2013, up slightly from 19 in 2011 and 18 in 2012. About half of the complaints in 2013 were related to two incidents in which too many acres were burned on days when the meteorological conditions did not allow for that level of smoke production.

Mr. Peterson also provided the Task Force with information about Ecology's Air Program's work in mitigating smoke from wood stoves through the use of wood stove trade-out and wood stove bounty programs, the ongoing air monitoring program, work with the National Weather Service. Mr. Peterson concluded his presentation by discussing a research project conducted in August by the US Environmental Protection agency which measured crop residue burning emissions in Idaho and Washington. Among the many collaborators in this study were the US Forest Service, Washington State University, the Nez Perce Tribe, Ecology and growers. The purpose for the study was to build on several small studies conducted about a decade ago on agricultural burning emissions and to understand plume behavior and provide data for the improvements of plume behavior models.

Best Management Practices

Two issues were brought up for future research from Ecology staff and potential further consideration by the Task Force at future meetings. The first issue was that of burning land that has been chem-fallowed, the question being whether there is sufficient residue left after the fallow period to require burning. The Task Force requested that Ecology staff determine how many acres were burned in 2013 that had been chem.-fallowed.

The second issue was that of the burning of land which had been enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and was being withdrawn from that program to be put back into active agricultural production. The current guidance from the non-cereal grain Best Management Practices on such CRP "take-out" is that the burning of CRP take-out is not generally recommended. The Task Force would like to revisit this issue in a future meeting after learning from Ecology staff how many acres were burned in this way in 2013.

2014 Meeting Schedule

The regularly scheduled meetings for 2014 were set for Tuesday, February 11, Tuesday, June 10, and Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at the Eastern Regional Office of the Dept. of Ecology.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM.