



Forest
Service

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Date: August 7, 2009

Route To:

Subject: Charter - Western Sustainable Operations Board of Directors

To: Regional Leadership Teams - R1, R2, R3, R4, R6, R10, RMRS

Today, as we face the enormous challenge of sustaining forests and grasslands under a changing climate, the agency's commitment to sustainability involves strategically connecting our land stewardship with practices that reduce our consumption and environmental footprint. The direct relationship between our healthy forests, faucets, heating systems, clean air, modes of transportation and many other goods and services has never been more apparent. Water and energy conservation, fleet and transportation management, and waste prevention/recycling and purchasing habits are activities that we must now include in our approach of "caring for the land." This concept of Sustainable Operations is one of the seven goals of the Forest Service Strategic Framework for Responding to Climate Change.

In 2006, the Rocky Mountain Region initiated and became the national lead for the Forest Service to move the agency forward in achieving more Sustainable Operations. A part of this effort included establishing a Sustainable Operations Board of Directors (Board) to provide leadership and facilitation for this effort throughout the Region. Members from other regions in the Intermountain West were also invited to participate in this new Board.

As we move forward on Sustainable Operations nationally, we recognize the importance and value of continuing this cross boundary and interdisciplinary work of Sustainable Operations throughout the west. As such, the initial Rocky Mountain Region (R2) charter is changing from a Board with invited participation from R1, R3, R4, R6, R10 and the RMRS, to an integrated Western Collaborative Board of Directors, consisting of core members from all units.

Board of Directors Purpose and Scope

The Board will facilitate overall coordination and collaboration of Sustainable Operations practices throughout R1, R2, R3, R4, R6, R10 and RMRS while providing the management and leadership climate to ensure such activities and practices are successful. Through leadership and example, the Board will work to educate and network with others connected to Federal Agency operations in reducing our environmental footprint, while simultaneously advancing the principles of sustainability.

This collaboration will include the sharing of staffing, resources and funding across the western units to collectively advance the implementation of Sustainable Operations and thus reduce our environmental footprint on a larger scale. Annually the Board will develop a shared business and funding plan to support Board activities and emphasis areas.

The Board will seek methods and processes to track, encourage and support Sustainable Operations accomplishments in such areas as water, energy, fleet, green purchasing and waste



prevention/recycling. This includes removing and resolving institutional hurdles and barriers while also supporting education and empowerment of all of our employees.

Annually the Board will identify emphasis areas of work and charter as necessary interregional/interstation virtual teams to accomplish and implement agreed upon activities. The Board will actively seek input and feedback from existing Green Teams and other champions throughout the west.

Board of Director's Organization and Membership

Core members of the Board will include a representative from each of the signing units at the Deputy Regional Forester/Deputy Station Director Level. Core membership can select 7-9 other members to provide necessary Line and Staff representation from the Regional Office/Stations, Washington Office and Forest Levels of the organization. An advisory member representing Environmental Protection Agency will be invited. Other Federal Agency Members may be included in the future as the Board deems necessary. Members of varied disciplines are welcome and viewed as strength to the Board.

Membership list is enclosed in Attachment 1.

One Chair and Vice-Chair will be selected by consensus from the Board membership, and may be rotated on an annual basis, throughout the units represented. Chair and Vice Chair responsibilities will include taking the lead on advancing Board objectives, accomplishing annual targets, scheduling meetings, developing meeting agendas, facilitating meetings, and coordinating correspondence and communication from the Board. The Sustainable Operations Coordinator (currently R1/R2 hosted) will serve as direct support staff to the Board with staff support from other units provided as-needed.

Board of Director's Logistics

The Board shall have monthly meetings. The majority of the meetings will be either conference call or video conference. On the ground field reviews of Sustainable Operations activities will be scheduled as deemed appropriate. Any additional Board integrated virtual teams (working groups or subcommittees) will meet on an as-needed basis.

All board activities will strive to be conservation oriented and reduce the impacts of our collective environmental footprint.


This charter is in effect for three years from the signature date below and will be reviewed annually to update and refine as necessary.



RICK D. CABLES
Regional Forester, R2


TOM TIDWELL
Regional Forester, R1


CORBIN NEWMAN
Regional Forester, R3


HARV FORSGREN
Regional Forester, R4


SAM FOSTER
Station Director, RMRS


MARY WAGNER
Regional Forester, R6


for BETH PENDLETON
Regional Forester, R10 (added September 9, 2010)