

# Forestry Program Update

Matthew Anderson, Regional Forester  
5<sup>th</sup> Annual Partners In Action Conference  
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan  
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# Topics for Discussion

- Personnel
- Policy/Handbook Updates
- TAAMS
- Training
- Budget

# Current MRO Forestry staff

- Matt Anderson, Regional Forester
  - Kristen Lease, Forest Management Inventory & Planning
  - Sean Maiers, Timber Sales
  - Joe Mortzheim, Inventory
  - Vacant, Forest Development (USA Jobs, closes 8/1)
- Tom Remus, Regional Fire Management Officer
  - Cristine Basina, Fire Business Analyst
  - Jeremy Bennett, Prevention Specialist
  - Marty Cassellius, Fuels Specialist
  - Paul Pooler, Ecologist
  - Desiree Red Day, Budget Analyst

# Recent Changes to Agency Staff

- Great Lakes Agency
  - None.
- Michigan Agency
  - Scott Virden, Forester.
- Minnesota Agency
  - Cory Berg, Fuels Specialist.

# Possible Future Staff Growth

- Proposal being developed for GIS Specialist at MRO.
- Examining development of other positions:
  - Clerical position at MNA.
  - Small Reservations/Forest Health Forester at MRO.
- Suggestions/Tribal needs?



# Policy Updates

- Carbon Policy.
- Forest Management Plan Consideration of Climate Change.
- Forest Management Deduction Collections into non-OST accounts.



# Handbook Updates

- Timber Sale Contract and Permit Forms and Standard Provisions.
  - Under revision as a precursor to revision of 53 IAM Handbook 3 *Contract Sales of Forest Products* and Handbook 4 *Permit Sales of Forest Products*.
- 53 IAM Handbook 7 *Forest Trespass* in late stages of revision, may release by end of CY.
- *Forestry Collections and Distributions Handbook* in late stages of revision, target release March 2017.



# TAAMS Re-Platform

- The new web-based TAAMS should be fully deployed and operational as of mid-July.
- Please report any problems to me.
- TAAMS Forestry Operations Group will meet in January to evaluate the new TAAMS and prioritize enhancements and bug fixes.
- Deploying TAAMS to Tribal personnel is still complicated.

# Upcoming TAAMS Training

- Basic: Phoenix, Arizona, week of November 11.
- Advanced: Portland, Oregon, January 2017.
- Advanced: Phoenix, Arizona, spring 2017.
- Thoughts on overhauling the training program.
  - Better targeted training.
  - Completely in-house training.



# Training

- MRO Forestry last put on a training in 2012.
- To better meet our mission, a combined training session is planned for February 2017.
- Need to identify a location.
  - Need conference room for 50+ people and 2 smaller rooms for 30 each.
  - Need nearby forest stand for field training.
  - Need local person to assist with logistics.
- Training planning starts next Monday.



# Year-End Funds Available

- Unspent budget funds are available for year-end projects now.
- For Inventory/Planning or Forest Development Projects, Contact Kristen Lease.
- For everything else, contact Matt Anderson.
- Proposals:
  - Up to \$150,000. No lower limit.
  - Submit by 8:00 AM CDT August 22, 2016 (possibly earlier).



# Funding Priorities

- Training and other employee development.
- Boots on the ground, especially fractional FTEs. Do not rely on this nonrecurring funding for new staff.
- Equipment.
- One-time projects or kickoff projects.

# Future Funding Allocation

- Regional TPA budget currently comes in two parts, base funding and discretionary.
- Central Office wants to program more of the discretionary funding to protect it from budget cuts.
- Need suggestions on how to program the discretionary funds, about \$500,000 annually.
  - New positions?
  - Overall base increases?
  - Gold-plated Relaskops?
- Regional Foresters will discuss this at a meeting in mid-December.



Questions?