

Agricultural Burning Practices & Research Task Force #105 Meeting Summary

DATE: November 7, 2018

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

<u>Members Present</u>		<u>Representing</u>
Dave Knight- Chair	Air Quality Program	Department of Ecology
Dan McCarthy	Okanogan Horticultural Association	Agricultural Community
Troy Henderson	Whitman County Public Health Department	Public Health
Larry Cochran	Washington Association of Conservation Districts	Conservation Districts
Scott Steinbacher	WA. Dept of Agriculture	WA. Dept. of Agriculture
<u>Alternates Present</u>		
Alyson Buckley	Alfalfa Seed Industry	Agricultural Community
Tyler Thompson	Benton Clean Air Agency	Eastern Washington Local Air Authorities

Introductions, Announcements

The 105th Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force (Task Force) meeting was held on November 7th, 2018, 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 November meeting is reserved for hearing an annual burning summary and scoping changes to the Best Management Practices (BMPs),.

Wildfire Review

Kari Johnson of Ecology presented the Task Force with information about the effects of the 2018 wildfire season on air quality in Eastern Washington, and Ecology's outreach efforts in response.

New Meteorological Forecasting Tools

Paul Rossow of Ecology introduced the Task Force to some of the tools Ecology uses in making the daily burn decision. He also discussed how those tools have changed and improved in the past decade.

Agricultural Burn Program Annual Review

Kary Peterson, from Ecology's Eastern Regional Office, presented information on how agricultural burning proceeded in 2018. The acreage of field burning has remained steady at

about 105,000 acres per year for the past several years, while the tonnage of pile burning has been increasing, and is now at about 50,000 tons per year. There were 10 complaints about agricultural burning in 2018, and 93 complaints about general outdoor burning in Ecology's jurisdiction. Peterson also discussed vineyard burning and the prohibited materials (trellis posts, wire) that are not allowable under Washington law to be burned. He talked about Ecology's efforts to encourage agricultural operations which use flaming to prevent weeds in orchards, vineyards, or fields (or for crops such as garlic or potatoes) to obtain field burn permits for their burning as required.

Changing the Number of Meeting per year for the Task Force

Chairman Knight announced the signing of the update to the governance document for the Task Force, changing the requirement from a minimum of three meetings per year, to a minimum of two meetings per year, the meetings to be held the first Wednesday of June and November.

The next meeting will be held June 5th, 2018 at a location to be decided in Starbuck, Washington.