

Agricultural Burning Practices & Research Task Force #111 Meeting Summary

DATE: November 3, 2021

LOCATION: Virtual Meeting held on Teams

<u>Members Present</u>		<u>Representing</u>
David Knight-Chair	Air Quality Program	Department of Ecology
Larry Cochran	Washington Assoc. of Conservation Districts	Conservation Districts
Jay Penner	Washington Association of Wheat Growers	Agricultural Community
Scott Steinbacher	WA. Dept of Agriculture	WA. Dept. of Agriculture
Mike Buckley	Alfalfa Seed Industry	Agricultural Community
<u>Members Absent</u>		
Bill Johnston	WSU Crop and Soil Science	Academia
Dan McCarthy	Okanogan Horticultural Association	Agricultural Community
Rob Rodger	Benton Clean Air Agency	Eastern Washington Local Air Authorities
Chris Skidmore	Whitman County Public Health Department	Public Health
Karen Lewis	WSU Extension	Academia, (Tree Fruit)

Introductions, Announcements

The 111th Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force (Task Force) meeting was held on November 3rd, 2021 via Teams online due to limitations on travel and meeting face-to-face caused by the COVID-19 virus situation.

The November meeting is reserved for hearing an annual burning summary and scoping changes to the Best Management Practices (BMPs).

2021 Burning Review

Daniel Matsche of the Washington Department of Ecology presented a review of the permitted burns so far in 2021, including a comparison of burn permits issued, acres permitted, and tons permitted, and revenue from 2020 compared to 2021, as well as a review of revenue trends over the past 2 years. There were a total of 3 complaints related to agricultural burning in 2021. Mr Matsche also discussed the impacts of the extensive drought and very hot summer conditions, and the Statewide burn ban, which limited some burning, while agricultural burns with written permits from Ecology were still allowed.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) Discussion

Paul Rossow from Ecology explained that there have been no calls or need of changes to the existing BMPs. When asked, the Task Force members were also not aware of any changes needed at this time.

2022 Meeting Scheduling

The 2022 regular meeting schedule of the Task Force was discussed, and the meetings were scheduled for June 1, 2022, and November 2, 2022. Should an in-person meeting be possible by June, Ecology will attempt to schedule the meeting in Dayton, with a Task Force “field-trip” to the nearby Columbia Pulp Fiber plant in Starbuck. Task Force member Scott Steinbacher was asked by Task Force Chair David Knight to update the Task Force on any changes to the regulations on hemp production in Washington at the June meeting.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Next Meeting

The next meeting (Meeting #11) of the Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force will be on Wednesday, June 1, 2021.