

Agricultural Burning Practices & Research Task Force #117

Meeting Summary

DATE: November 6, 2024

LOCATION: Spokane, WA, available virtually on Teams

Members Present, Affiliation, Representing

Karin Baldwin (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

Derek Aubrey, Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency, E. Wash. Local Air Authorities

Members Absent, Affiliation, Representing

Aaron Esser, WSU Extension, Academia (Cereal Grains)

Dan McCarthy, Okanogan Horticultural Association, Agricultural Community

Chris Skidmore, Whitman County Public Health Dept, Public Health

Bernadita Sallato, WSU Extension, Academia (Tree Fruit)

Introductions, Announcements

The 115th Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force (Task Force) meeting was held on November 6th, 2024 in Spokane, with it also being available via Teams online. The Task Force meeting began with the introduction of Task Force members and guests.

The November meeting of the Task Force is normally reserved for receiving an update on funded research, hearing an annual burning summary, and scoping changes to the Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Research Presentations

The Task Force heard a presentation from researchers with an interim report on research conducted so far using funds awarded by Ecology, and a proposal to conduct research responding to Ecology's Request for Research Proposals of up to \$100,000 in research proposals.

The project,

Vermi-Treatment Solutions: Enhancing Air Quality and Toxic Chemical Removal Through Sustainable Orchard Wood Utilization and Vermi-Treatment Filtration Systems

is available at [Department of Ecology - Committees, Boards, and Workgroups \(wa.gov\)](https://www.wa.gov/department-of-ecology/committees-boards-and-workgroups)

The progress made so far on this project has been to create a prototype of the equipment to be used in the experiment and to identify apple wood as a preferred substrate for this process over pine. The final report will be given at the next task force meeting in June.

Washington Agricultural Burning Program Yearly Review

Daniel Matsche from the Department of Ecology Air Quality Program gave an overview of the agricultural burning which took place in 2024. He explained that acres burned were down significantly in 2024 from last year, with the amount closer to the long-term annual mean.

BMP's

Paul Rossow from Ecology explained that there have been no calls or need of changes to the existing BMPs.

Round Table Discussion

The Task Force members discussed the problem of missing post-burn reports and how to encourage permittees to submit timely post-burn reports after burning.

Next Meeting

The next meeting (Meeting #118) of the Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force will be on Wednesday, June 4, 2025.