

SUFC Policy Working Group + Research Cmte Call

Friday, January 18, 2013

Participating: John Barnwell; Rebecca Turner; Cara Boucher; Josh Ullman; Don Winsett; Jack McCabe; Michael Leff; Kevin O'Hara; Alice Ewen; Gerry Gray; Scott Maco; Jennifer Hinrichs; Carrie Gallagher; Nick Tobenkin

Purpose of Call: To allow both Policy and Research groups to share information about their overlapping work and begin outlining how to advocate most effectively for UF research on Feb. 27th and beyond.

- Gerry provided a brief recap on the SUFC meeting with R & D leadership team last month (December). [Detailed meeting notes](#) available on SUFC Members page. FS is preparing a response to several SUFC questions and setting up a time for SUFC leaders to meet with the FSRET (including regional research station leadership) in DC in Feb.
- As SUFC will not advocate a specific budget figure for UF research (due to release timing of Pres. Budget etc.) at the upcoming SUFC Advocacy Day on the Hill. However, SUFC members should include in their talking points the direct benefits of UF research to our sector (via case studies etc.) and note the history of good performance and relevance UF research provides.
- **ACTION:** Jennifer will connect with Beth Larry @ SUFC list of draft research priorities and cross reference with the FS list of research areas. Cmte noted there was an apparent gap b/w Tech transfer/delivery; invasive threat/climate adaptation; wood utilization; and standards (from Vibrant Cities to UF mgmt.)
- Worth noting that SUFC is interested in issues that are outside the UF budget such as FIA, wood utilization etc.)
- Call participants discussed the value of using iTree reports (v. brief/pulling facts from research) for specific districts which allows UF champions to link their talking points to what is happening on the ground. This underscores the importance of increasing research.
ACTION: SUFC Hill Team Leads should work with team members to prepare/pull data if available – and/or connect with Scott Maco to see if select districts could be examined prior to strategic/key Hill meetings.
- Gerry flagged the 2010 RPA Assessment. It was officially released on December 18. The news release can be found on the front page of the Forest Service website (<http://www.fs.fed.us/>). The report can be accessed electronically through the Treearch link (<http://www.treearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/41976/>), or through the RPA Assessment website (<http://www.fs.fed.us/research/rpa/>), which also provides a list of the supporting publications for the 2010 RPA.
Gerry noted the increased importance of UF along with the increase of urbanized areas. Work reviewing in context of our work.
- Green Infrastructure (GI): Several call participants stressed the need to tie UF back into GI – esp. with a potential for increased investment (federal and other) in the future. “How much is UF and trees a part of these projections? The importance of real data on trees within GI is key. We need to see hard data – ecosystems value of urban trees is a critical question for SUFC.”

- UF research is an important part of the SUFC Annual Meeting next month – this group needs to continue to provide guidance on what they want to discuss within the larger coalition gathering and to what end. Suggestions include: walking quickly through each of the SUFC identified areas of interest – a sort of state-of-the-union for UF research; identify commonalities and what is “hanging out there”. A clear goal is to formalize the UF Research Cmte – and invite other SUFC members to join.
- **ACTION:** Jennifer if pursuing potential presentation from R&D leadership team at Annual Mtg.

Next SUFC Policy call is Friday, 9 AM Feb. 1st.