We propose several workshops on the use of R tailored specifically for WDNR needs to be given in conjunction with the 2015 FM Statewide meeting. Specifically, we propose the following:

* A large (up to 40 people), 1-day session on the day prior to the Statewide (March 2, 2015) that would focus on the basic concepts of how to use R, provide tools that are immediately useful for FM (or research) staff, and highlight some higher-level capabilities (to motivate future interest). Potential topics for this session include:
  + Data management (specific to working with the FM database)
    - Create new variables from existing variables (e.g., length categories)
    - Create useful subsets of FM data (e.g., by lake, by year, by size, etc.)
    - Merge multiple datasets
  + Create customizable summary tables and figures from FM data
  + Computed basic statistical summaries of FM data (e.g., regression, ANOVA)
* Several (2-3) smaller, shorter (~2 hour) sessions during the Statewide on more advanced uses of R that are tailored to specific user groups. We would meet with the relevant teams prior to the Statewide to tailor the workshop to their specific needs, WDNR data structure, and reporting requirements. Potential topics for these sessions include:
  + Age and growth
  + Population estimation
  + Advanced statistical methods (e.g., multiple regression, multivariate analyses).

Our previous discussions with Board members have indicated that the Board is supportive of these workshops in concept. We believe that the 2015 Statewide is the ideal time to move from concept to action and, thus, we **request FM Board approval to develop these workshops and for the following specific items**:

* *Permission to work with the training team to get on the Statewide schedule and work out logistics for the workshops.*
* *Work with other teams (e.g., database, age and growth) to develop specific agenda items for the workshops.*
* *Conduct an email-based survey of supervisors, biologists, technicians, and research staff to ascertain their interest in these workshop (to estimate attendance), their current level of experience using R, and the topics in which they are most interested.*
* *Travel for an additional day prior to the statewide for workshop attendees and trainers.*
* *Contract to Derek Ogle for time spent preparing and leading the workshops ($1000+travel costs).*

We anticipate that these workshops will get more DNR staff familiar with the capabilities and increases in efficiency that R provides. We hope to conduct future trainings, tailored to meet DNR needs, so that users can capitalize on what was learned in these workshops, become more proficient in the use of R, and identify other areas where R can improve reporting and efficiency.