Memorandum

To: IESAF Executive Council

From: Mark E. Swanson, Faculty Advisor, WSU Forestry Club/SAF Student Chapter

Re: Report for IESAF EC Meeting 5-7-14, Coeur d’Alene

Date: May 6th, 2014

The Washington State University Forestry Club/Society of American Foresters Student Chapter is pleased to report the conclusion of another busy year. Active membership has fluctuated between 15 and 25, and as always a committed core of individuals has kept the Club alive and functioning!

*Leadership*

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| --- | --- | --- |
| *Position* | *Outgoing Officer (2013-2014)* | *Incoming Officer (2014-2015)* |
| President | Curtis Flolid | Curtis Flolid |
| Vice President | Jenny Spadoni | Ben Hartmann |
| Treasurer | Alex Biswas | Jason Fontaine |
| Secretary | Amanda Moody | Amanda Moody |
| Recruitment Chair | Haley McDonel | Haley Anderson |
| Faculty Advisor | Mark E. Swanson | Mark E. Swanson |

*I am very grateful for all of my hard-working officers*. This Club would be a shade of itself without their dedication and hard work! On a special note, Amanda Moody, Jenny Spadoni, and Ben Hartmann attended the Montana and IESAF Leadership Academy held at the Lubrecht Experimental Forest February 7-8, 2014. They report a great time was had, and returned with a great deal of motivation to re-energize our Club!

*Chainsaw training*

We take pride in teaching students how to safely and efficiently use and maintain chainsaws. We hosted two different training sessions during the 2013-2014 year in which ten students gained basic competency in chainsaw use and maintenance. Some exciting news came in March 2014: we received, as a gift from Clark County Farm Forestry Association, a new MS291 Stihl! Tyler Edwards, one of our members, is from Clark County and was crucial in securing this generous donation.

*Firewood sales program*

We sold several hundred dollars’ worth of firewood this year in support of club activities. This wood came from a number of sources, including forest managed by the Club at the Steffen Center and several private properties in Idaho. Probably the most exciting news from our firewood sales program is the current (May 2014) construction of a wood shed to keep our firewood dry, and to store it in an organized way. The wood for this shed was harvested by the Ranney-McCrae family of Shelton, Washington, milled on their Alaska mill, and delivered to the Steffen Center where our firewood program is based. Curtis Flolid, our current Club president, has taken the lead on building this fine structure, and the frame is now standing! We plan to side it with plywood and put up a corrugated metal roof. If the Palouse-Snake River Chapter is interested in helping with the costs of roof and siding, we would be grateful for support!

*Cheney IESAF Meeting*

Eight WSU students attended the IESAF meeting in Cheney, November 14-16. We are still grateful for the support we received from the IESAF to help bring our students to Cheney! The students who attended were very grateful for the opportunity to learn, network, and socialize. Several commented that they “had no idea how fun these events were”!

*Thinning program*

We conducted a thinning event in April 2014 at Ron Nowack’s tree farm, Potlatch, Idaho. Several students felled their first tree in a high-density ponderosa pine stand. Since 2009, we have thinned seven acres on this tree farm, creating defensible space against fires that would likely come from a southwesterly direction through the surrounding wheat fields.

*Social activities*

We have held several bonfires during the 2013-2014 year to socialize, create interest among prospective members, and consume some of the forest activity fuels we create in our thinning activities. As usual, we printed club T-shirts in the fall, further promoting Club pride. End-of-year

*End-of-year Departmental BBQ Planning and Implementation*

I am very proud to report that my students were instrumental in planning and conducting the end-of-year departmental BBQ for the School of the Environment at WSU. From activity planning, contracting a bluegrass band, helping with food preparation, cleaning up, and conducting the “after-party” bonfire, my students worked hard to deliver this well-received event on May 2, 2014.

*Other activities*

We held informal socials, bake sales, had guest speakers at meetings (including Professor Dean Glawe, with a well-received set of comments on forest health), and much more than can be reported here.

We hold out great hope for the 2014-2015 year. My own professional obligations commanded much of my time this academic year, but I am anxious to renew my own dedication to my SAF students!



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