

**West Virginia Legislature  
Forest Management Review Commission**

**FINAL REPORT  
to  
Joint Committee on Government and Finance  
2013 - 2014 Interims**

**Members**

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**Senator Bob Williams, Chair  
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Thomas Hawse, III  
Ed McCoy  
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James Willison**

Your Forest Management Review Commission, appointed pursuant to Article 24, Chapter 5 of the Code of West Virginia, and granted the power, duty and responsibility to:

(a) Generally assist in the retention, expansion and attraction of forestry and forestry related industries by creating a climate for the development and support of the industry;

(b) Coordinate the current efforts to enhance and promote the expansion of the forestry industry among the several state and federal agencies, commissions, boards, committees, associations and other entities;

(c) Urge the development of multiple-use sustained-yield management plans for nonindustrial timber tracts;

(d) Develop products and markets for the grade of materials that currently comprise a majority of the state's resources;

(e) Recommend a stable and predictable tax program for both new and existing firms in the state;

(f) Develop a centralized and enhanced protection program that will reduce risks from fire and pestilence;

(g) Develop financial assistance for the attraction and expansion of new and existing secondary manufacturing facilities, with special emphasis on assistance for smaller firms employing less than twenty persons;

(h) Utilize recognized research expertise of appropriate existing educational, public and industrial institutions or agencies of the state. Research shall include economic development efforts in West Virginia, including silviculture, wood land management, forest management, the development of new products as well as other products designed to aid forestry development; and

(i) Employ, if needed, and only with prior approval of the West Virginia Legislature's Joint Committee on Government and Finance, such staff as may be necessary. In the event an executive director may be necessary, such individual shall be a forestry graduate of a four-year college of forestry and shall, in addition, have administrative and research experience, preferably, but not mandatorily, with at least five years' experience in government.

During the 2012 – 2013 Legislative Interim meetings, your Commission has met with the representatives of state government and the forest industry to discuss the following topics:

### **JULY 2013**

The Forest Management Review Commission met on Tuesday, July 23, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. Staff Counsel, Noelle Starek, addressed the FMRC statutory scope. Randy Dye, State Forester, provided a forestry update and discussed FMRC study topics.

## AUGUST 2013

The Forest Management Review Commission met on Monday, August 19, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. Dr. Shawn Grushecky, Appalachian Hardwoods Center, presented Kanawha State Forest Fire Risk Assessment. Randy Dye, State Forester, discussed funding issues due to the ongoing fires in the western United States.

## SEPTEMBER 2013

The Forest Management Review Commission met on Monday, September 23, 2013 at 2:00 p.m, Harry Watt, Wood Products Specialist, North Carolina State University, made a presentation on the secondary wood products industry and his various grant projects. Greg Cook, Deputy State Forester, answered questions regarding the abilities and restrictions of the WV Division of Forestry to enforce timber theft laws in West Virginia.

## OCTOBER 2013

The Forest Management Review Commission met on Monday, October 21, 2013 at 12:00 noon. Matt Borrer, Manager, National Accounts, Business & Industrial Development, WV Development Office, discussed the forest products industry. Don Wagner, Appalachian Wood Products, discussed the wood pellet industry.

## NOVEMBER 2013

The Forest Management Review Commission met on Monday, November 18, 2013 at 12:00 noon. Randy Dye, Director, WV Division of Forestry, presented the “Revised Guidelines for Managing the State Forests.” The FMRC is tasked with reviewing and approving the revised Guidelines, and future revisions.

## DECEMBER 2013

The Forest Management Review Commission met on Tuesday, December 10, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. Dean Alanko, Vice President of Sales for Allegheny Wood Products, discussed the wood products industry. Staff Attorney, Noelle Starek reviewed and discussed the Revised Guidelines for Managing State Forests. FMRC voted to adopt the revised Guidelines

## JANUARY 2014

The Forest Management Review Commission met on Monday, January 6, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. The Commission considered two pieces of legislation: **HB/SB: Civil and Criminal Penalties for violating the Logging Sediment Control Act** and **HB/SB: Timber Theft on State Forests**. Randy Dye, Director of the Division of Forestry, explained the need for the LSCA civil and criminal penalty changes, and discussed the issues with timber theft on state forests.

Your Commission **RECOMMENDS: HB/SB: Civil and Criminal Penalties for violating the Logging Sediment Control Act and HB/SB: Timber Theft on State Forests.** It further recommends that it continue to receive updates related to the forest industry.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

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**Senator Bob Williams**  
**Chair**

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**Delegate William G. Hartman**  
**Chair**