

**Tree Marking Committee
2006 Meeting Notes
May 16 – 18, 2006, Eureka, CA**

Bob Simonson of the San Dimas Technology and Development Center (T&D) started the meeting with general welcome and requested an introduction of those attending.

Bob Garcia	R2	Mark Epstein	LHB
Steve Marsh	R3	John Thompson	LHB
Matt Staudacher	R4	Randy Terrill	NCP Coatings
Dave Johns	R5	Margaret Conroy	GSA
Frank Duran	R6	Rita Velilla	GSA
Sandy Henning	R8	Bob Simonson	T&D – Acting Chair
Mike VanDyck	R9	Andy Horcher	T&D
Ken Dinsmore	R10	Dick Fitzgerald	WO – FM
Ted Sandhofer	NFFE	Kelly Koeppe	WO – AQM
Lenore Crippa	Six Rivers NF	Walt Smith	BLM

Will Metz, the Deputy Forest Supervisor from the Six Rivers National Forest welcomed the group, described the area and thanked the committee for coming.

Bob described the role of T&D.

John of Light House for the Blind (LHB) showed an introductory video and presentation regarding *LHB's operation* and service. The employment of four blind individuals is attributed to the TMP program. LHB is ISO 9001-2000 certified.

Several units indicated a special thanks to LHB employee Dave Robson who handles many shipping issues.

To Do: T&D will put a password protected link for LHB contacts on the paint web site.

Randy gave an *overview of NCP Coatings* (NCP) operations. They employ 100 individuals.

Waterborne WCP comprises 80% of the volume.

NCP is also ISO 9001-2000 certified.

NCP's contract with LHB is tied to a specialty coatings producer price index (PPI).

Dick Fitzgerald of the Washington Office (WO) gave a brief recap of past paint issues. In the '80's there was a concern over contaminants, such as lead. In the '90's the FS moved to waterborne paints and worked with National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to test it. T&D relies on the field representatives for support and input.

Kelly Koepp: **Website for credit card purchasing** of paint: either GSAAdvantage or USDAAdvantage websites may be established to purchase paint online with a credit card. USDAAdvantage has a greater level of security, but BLM employees cannot currently access it.

Decision: Committee agrees to go with USDAAdvantage website for purchasing paint, BLM may still order using fedstrip method until this issue is remedied.

To Do: BLM needs to appoint a national representative for procurement issues to assist with paint purchasing issues.

Committee members request a chance to review the current **list of approved purchasers** and shipping addresses, as there was some concern over potential confusion. After this list is approved changes will only be made once a month. This system should be ready for U.S. Department of Agriculture employees in July. Each session will only allow the shipment to be sent to one location; so each location will require a separate ordering session on the website. Also paint may not be purchased with other non paint items.

To Do: Kelly will provide the raw list. T&D will send the lists and a copy of the original letter.

To Do: Regional representatives agreed to provide any changes, highlighted, to Kelly with a due date of June 16th, 2006.

LHB requested a count on **expected orders of pink** in the first run.

Decision: No gallon containers of pink will be produced in the first run. Pink is in inventory as of June 20th.

Regional and WO representatives expressed concern over what happens to paint when it is deemed **“lost” or damaged by the shipper**. Also R9 had an instance where the subcontractor did not deliver the paint for over three months.

LHB responded by saying they make every effort to get all lost materials back. The bill of lading is clear and the boxes are clearly marked. However, in some instances the materials may be discarded. While they have agreements with the LTL carriers, the smaller subcontractors are less reliable. The smaller subcontractors, who are often the only delivery option in remote areas, create a significant barrier regarding the use of bar code tracking the packages. Bar code tracking would be a valuable tool for the customers and LHB but would likely cost more. LHB said that freight trapping is a common occurrence; the shipper waits for more deliveries to an area to make it more cost effective.

To Do: LHB will increase the size of the explanatory labeling on the boxes.

Status: The font size has been increased on the boxes.

To Do: T&D will investigate the cost of implementing it a bar-code tracking system.

Concern was expressed regarding mixing lots in shipping boxes, even though they are so labeled.

Decision: LHB will no longer ship mixed lots, but discard or reuse the small volume of paint at the end of each lot rather than can it.

LHB: paint currently has a six month *age on delivery* requirement. They would prefer a one year age on delivery to allow more stocking of low volume colors.

NCP: the paint shelf life is four to five years for bulk and ten years for aerosol.

To Do: The General Services Administration (GSA) committee contacts will clarify where the age on delivery is specified, and why, and report back to T&D.

A question was posed – why continue to offer *Citrus WCP* when it represents a very small amount of the paint purchased?

The original reason was to provide an alternative for employees who developed a reaction to the waterborne WCP. However, that decision was prior to the availability of the rain resistant paint as an alternative. Data was provided showing that the Citrus WCP orders were spread around almost all Regions. There was concern that there may be some field level confusion between the Citrus-based WCP and the citrus-based Rain resistant paint.

To Do: GSA will make the rain resistant labeling clear on the ordering website so there is no confusion.

A standard form and marking procedure was shown for documenting conditions at the four official *field test sites*. The form and procedure had been agreed to by the technical subcommittee for improved consistency at field sites across regions. Some Regions will use common field markings at the test sites in addition to the test procedure.

Test Sites:

R3, '99 tested: Suspects tracer detection is most difficult on the south side of the tree.

R8, '05 tested: No change in appearance.

R6, All paints satisfactory on all evaluation criteria.

R9, '99 tested: Some of the Orange WCP tracer was not detectable using standard field method.

It was asked if we should conduct lab tests on the tracers.

Decision: Since the '99 paint is from the developmental specification and prior to the increase in tracer material, tracer testing of the current paint will be done as part of the contract renewal tests.

The two *contracts between GSA and LHB* are up for renewal soon (one contract for each of the two current specifications). Rain resistant is due September 2006 and waterborne is due September 2007. These are five year contracts. The current GSA markup is 15%. LHB adjusts their costs with freight PPI, a resin PPI, and a Social Security Cost of Living Allowance for labor. Paint is currently priced regardless of the amount ordered.

To Do: T&D will determine appropriate testing lab.

Decision: GSA will cover the costs of the Qualified Products Testing.

Decision: T&D will get involved in pricing to better understand the NCP/LHB/NIB/GSA process.

BLM had one sample of WCP tested for storage and disposal purposes by a state certified lab. The Orange paint test result indicated a *flash point* below 140 Fahrenheit (F), which would classify the paint as flammable rather than combustible. If this were correct, it would change a number of procedures including shipping. Currently, the MSDS states in Section 15 – Regulatory Information, RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act).

Status: This material is classified as a hazardous waste. And in Section 13 – Disposal Consideration: Waste must be tested for ignitability. RCRA standard is less than 140 degrees Fahrenheit. If the above test results were repeated the WCP would not meet this standard, and would meet RCRA characteristics for ignitability. This would mean that unused or waste paint would need to be collected for appropriate disposal.

NCP stated they regularly use ASTM methods to test for flash point, and results are above 200F.

To Do: BLM will provide NCP the lot number of the paint which was tested so that a retained sample can be retested. NCP will report results to T&D.

To Do: Flammability will also be tested as part of the contract renewal process.

LHB has the ability to produce a *WCP aerosol*. A query on general interest had been sent out earlier, however, without pricing information there was not much interest.

To Do: LHB will develop a price estimate, and provide a small sample in green – coordinating distribution with T&D.

There were reports of *orange Rain resistant aerosol* paint turning brown due to a reaction with the aerosol can. This is no longer a problem as all orders now being shipped have lined cans on all products.

Decision: LHB has agreed to replace this paint at no cost until the end of FY06.

To Do: LHB will provide T&D the lot numbers of orange aerosol paint manufactured before the switch to lined cans.

Status: These are the only lot numbers to be concerned with; N0018, N0122, N0253, N0459, N0501, N0559, P0151, and P0263.

To Do: T&D will send out the e-mail notification regarding lot numbers, replacement procedures and end date.

Status: Sent 6/14/2006.

R9 field tests indicate that adding *acetone* to bulk paint lets it stick to wet bark much more readily and wondered if this could be done in the manufacturing process. NCP explained that acetone makes a hydrophobic paint more soluble in water. However the committee was concerned that adding acetone would change the specification, which would require a significant amount of product testing for employee health and safety.

Decision: The committee agreed that changing the specification was not appropriate at this time.

To Do: NCP and R9 will discuss the issue further and report back to the committee.

It is not recommended that anyone add anything, such as acetone, to the paint.

BLM noted that the rain resistant paint is slow to dry in wet conditions, but it does not run. NCP noted that this is how the paint is expected to perform. It is important not to put the paint on too thick as this will greatly increase drying time.

Results of the handful of cans sent out with **a new type of nozzle:** R9 found that in temperatures below freezing the trial nozzles often resulted in approximately half of the paint remaining in the can after the CO₂ is evacuated rather than about a quarter can remaining with the current standard nozzle. Other Regions liked the new nozzle.

Decision: A larger test run of the new nozzles will be conducted in three to four regions using green.

To Do: T&D and LHB will work together to send out the appropriate information.

Committee members expressed concern that there has not been a *health and safety representative* for three consecutive years. Health and safety concerns, like the issue of adding acetone, are why they should send someone to this meeting. T&D has requested and invited with no response.

To Do: T&D to try and press the issue harder.

Status: T&D sent a message notifying the WO-Director of Occupational Safety and Health that he would be listed on the TMP intranet site as the Safety and Health representative of the TM committee until such time that he chose to delegate the responsibility. He has advised he will reconsider their level of involvement.

A backpack paint gun produced by NCP, was tested by some regions. Changes were requested, but they often conflict. More changes are unlikely.

BLM introduced a product: TIS, an Oregon based company, produces a soybean based solvent. This product works well for *cleaning up rain resistant paint*.

To Do: BLM will provide a one page write up on the product to be posted on the paint web site.

LHB has a similar product which can be diluted with water. Corrosion inhibitors could be included so paint guns could remain in the cleaner for extended periods. This could be sold in five gallon buckets. LHB would first like a written request for the cleaning product with specifications including dilution requirements and what the product will be used for, e.g. paint guns only, personal clean- up, etc.

To Do: T&D will coordinate and submit the request.

To Do: R5 will send the regional representatives a revised XLS file that can be used to track paint inventory. The new file allows for *odd numbers of cans in inventory*, as well as paint transfer to other field units. If this file meets approval, it will be placed on the paint web site.

A number of minor changes to the FS Handbook 2409.12_70 were discussed and agreed to. R3, R4, R5, R9, R10 would like pink for *leave tree marking* in addition to boundary marking. R6 had strong feelings against adding multiple leave tree uses for pink.

To Do: T&D will discuss and decide with WO review.

Status: Decision – Pink will be listed as a secondary color for boundary marking only. Use of an alternate color for leave tree mark would only be on a case by case decision for an exception.

To Do: R10 will investigate if *green* is specified for sale administration use.

Status: Nothing was found in the directives that specify this. The intention is that sale administrators use a different color for timber added after the sale is sold, so if the sale was originally marked with green, then the SA would have the option of using blue or yellow for additional volume.

A suggestion was made to remove white from the boundary option. The majority of the regional representatives prefer to leave white as a boundary option.

A *clarification on color selection* was requested: is it up to the forest regarding which color to use, or are they required to use the primary color, using secondary and tertiary colors only in certain situations? A suggestion was made that extenuating circumstances be documented.

Most regional representatives believe selection of primary, secondary, or tertiary colors should remain very flexible.

To Do: T&D will discuss and decide with WO review.

Status: Decision: Reasons for the use of secondary and tertiary colors will be documented in the sale folder.

Decision: The next meeting will be in R6, the week of May 14th, 2007.