

**Tree Marking Committee
2007 Meeting Notes
May 15 – 17, 2007, Portland, OR**

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

Attendees:

Gerald Ryszka	R2	Mark Epstein	LHB
Steve Marsh	R3	John Thompson	LHB
Kim Newbauer	R3	Randy Terrill	NCP
Jacob Somerset	R4	Sherman Drew	NCP
Dave Johns	R5	Margaret Conroy	GSA
Dan Merritt	R5	Jeff Griess	TIS
Frank Duran	R6	Roald Berg	TIS
Sandy Henning	R8	Dick Fitzgerald	WO – FM
Mike Van Dyck	R9	Kelly Koepp	WO – AQM
Ken Dinsmore	R10	Walt Smith	BLM – OR/WA
Ted Sandhofer	NFFE	Paul Gammon	BLM – OR/WA
Bob Simonson	T&D	Lyndon Werner	BLM – OR/WA
Dave Haston	T&D	Thomas Fulton	BLM – AQM

Introductions:

Bob Simonson described the role of T&D. He reminded members that there is information on the web site regarding the roles and responsibilities of paint committee members. The committee is the primary contact for disseminating information on timber marking paint.

Sherman Drew of NCP Coatings (NCP) gave an overview of NCP operations and a brief history of product development and past paint issues. He explained that NCP is committed to research and development and is constantly working to evolve their products.

Dick Fitzgerald of the Washington Office (WO) – Forest Management (FM) gave a brief recap of past paint issues. Through the years there have been some controversies surrounding paint, particularly with health issues. Much work was done to reformulate paint in response to the issues raised. In the 1990's the Forest Service (FS) moved to waterborne paints and worked with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to test it. Today, the cost of using paint in the field is an issue and there has been an increase in the use of designation by description practices especially with biomass and small diameter material. Dick sees this as a practice that will be used more frequently in the future.

John Thompson from Light House for the Blind (LHB) explained the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Act. In the 1930's a program was developed to help employ those who are legally blind. LHB was successful in having tree marking paint (TMP) placed on the mandatory procurement list, so we are mandated by law to buy TMP from LHB. The employment of five (full time equivalent) blind individuals is directly attributed to the TMP program.

Review of action items from the 2006 meeting:

- LHB contact info: A password-protected link for LHB contacts has been added to the members-only section of the T&D web site.
- On-line ordering of TMP: The General Services Administration (GSA) Advantage website is complete.
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Acquisitions Management (AQM) committee member: BLM has appointed a national procurement representative, Thomas Fulton, to assist with paint purchasing issues. Tom will be Kelly Koeppe's counterpart for the BLM.
- Approved TMP purchaser list: Monthly updates of approved purchasers need to be sent to Kelly by the 20th of each month and should be effective by the 1st of the next month.
- Mixed lots: LHB is no longer shipping mixed lots in shipping boxes. Any problems with this issue need to be reported to Dave Robson at LHB.
- Age on delivery: LHB currently has a three month age on delivery requirement for one of the contracts, and a four month age on delivery requirement for the other. They would prefer a longer (one year) age on delivery to allow more stocking of low volume colors (orange and blue make up 80% of the paint that is sold). The paint shelf life is four to five years for bulk and ten years for aerosols but field personnel should not be purchasing more than they can use in a one year time frame. A recommendation was made for LHB to notify T&D when low volume colors are reaching their age on delivery so that the product might get sold instead of being disposed. Two ways to achieve notification were discussed – T&D could notify regional representatives directly, or the information could be placed on the T&D website. This paint could be purchased directly from LHB via credit card.

New Action Item: T&D will add information to the TMP web site, where spare paint from across the country or LHB paint which is approaching the age on delivery limit could be advertised. GSA will research re-inspect requirements.

Update: LHB has negotiated a six month age on delivery and a three year re-inspection date for all NSN's in the two contracts. LHB is now waiting for the official contract modification.

- Product labeling: Labeling requirements have been updated to more clearly distinguish between rain resistant and citrus paints. There has been confusion between the two products in the past.
- Qualification testing: A test matrix was developed for Qualified Products List (QPL) testing. At the 2006 meeting, GSA stated that they would pay for QPL testing because they had previously provided this service at their San Francisco lab. Subsequent to the 2006 meeting, GSA notified T&D that the Federal Acquisitions Regulations (FAR) require the manufacturer to pay for QPL testing.

LHB was notified in April 2007 that they would be responsible for payment of the laboratory testing fees via a collection agreement with the FS. LHB then notified T&D that the cost of TMP would have to increase to cover the cost of testing.

To preclude a cost increase, T&D, LHB and NCP devised a strategy whereby NCP, under the oversight of T&D, would conduct the performance testing in-house (submitting certificates of conformance), and all organic and metals testing would be performed by an independent laboratory.

- Paint flash point: A sample of BLM paint in question from 2006 was tested and determined to be combustible but not flammable. **No further action required.**
- Rain resistant paint reaction with can: The aerosol containers were changed so they no longer react with the paint (which caused the orange paint to turn brown). Information regarding the affected production lots was placed on the T&D website. **No further action required.**
- Addition of acetone to aerosol paint: Region 9 (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. The committee had previously agreed that changing the specification (to add acetone) was not appropriate at that time. No further action was taken on this item but R9 has new test results that indicate this might still be worth considering.
- Aerosol nozzle tips: The general consensus is that people are happy with the current tip. Aerosol nozzles were previously reconfigured to change delivery rates thus increasing the longevity of the aerosol. LHB feels this is no longer an issue that needs refinement.
- Inventory tracking form: The TMP inventory form was revised and is in the draft directive. The new form is available on the TMP website in both Microsoft Word and Excel formats, along with examples.
- Draft directive: There were a number of minor changes made to FS2409.12, 70 at the 2006 meeting. The directive is still in a draft status and no timeline was given for its official inclusion in the directives. There was much discussion of using pink as a secondary leave tree color by several regions. However, the WO will only approve it as a boundary color.

New Action Item: The WO will review the notes from the 2005 meeting and make a final determination of the national color scheme.

Company presentations:

Technical Industrial Sales (TIS)

Jeff Griess gave a presentation on TIS products. Their highest selling product is plywood putty, but they have a number of lumber products. They are expanding into new industries, including cleaning products using soy-based and citrus cleaners. The BLM is using the soy cleaner for rain-resistant paint cleanup. It was described as biodegradable, can be diluted with water, and cleans solvent-based paint. It can be used for storing paint guns and cleaning and lubricating spray tips. They have a citrus cleaner that is described as biodegradable and also cleans solvent-based paints. Material Safety Data Sheets for the products were passed around the room. The BLM is using the soy cleaner to promote the use of environmentally-friendly cleaners for their marking equipment. TIS recommended the soy cleaner for the rain-resistant paint. The smallest available quantity is five gallons. (www.tisor.com)

Action Item: The company's product information will be included with the "tip list" being developed by the committee. The company currently only accepts purchase orders, but will look into the use of credit cards for purchasing their products.

Lighthouse for the Blind

John Thompson showed the introductory video and presentation regarding LHB's operations and services. He then reviewed sales volumes from 2006-2007. Citrus orange and blue quarts are relatively steady. However, very few gallons of Type B (citrus) were sold, and John asked if it was necessary to manufacture every National Stock Number (NSN). It was proposed that the manufacture of citrus gallons be discontinued and the committee concurred. Six other NSNs have almost no volume (rain-resistant yellow, green, white and black and waterborne white and pink) but the committee determined that the products were still needed and should continue to be manufactured.

In 2006 LHB stopped shipping mixed lots in the same case and partial cases will no longer be shipped. A contract amendment to this effect will be completed by GSA.

Most orders are shipped within three days from LHB and are shipped by Less Than Load (LTL) or United Parcel Service. Regarding truck lines not setting up a delivery appointment – this is very hard for LHB to control because most orders are handed off from LHB's carrier to another carrier for final delivery. They have changed notices on the boxes with directions to carriers to help improve delivery issues. Dave from LHB has been very helpful in resolving the issue by contacting delivery companies.

Information was presented on the development of a waterborne aerosol. Eighty percent of paint sold is waterborne so LHB decided to develop a waterborne aerosol product. LHB indicated that a water-based aerosol would be approximately \$0.50 cheaper per can than the rain-resistant formulations. However, LHB could not get an acceptable spray pattern with a CO₂ propellant during tests. They also tried using dimethyl ether as a propellant which is commonly used in hair sprays. It is considered flammable but not combustible. It produced an acceptable spray pattern but not a wide pattern. One problem encountered is that dimethyl ether pressure goes down with temperature (not very effective below 40 degrees Fahrenheit). However, freezing is not an issue. The advantage is that it is easier to write with the waterborne aerosol than the rain-resistant aerosol.

Subsequent to the LHB presentation, the committee discussed the need for the waterborne aerosol product. The committee decided that there would not be a high demand for the product and further product development and testing should not be pursued.

There was a discussion on the cost of paint. The major cost contributors are the resin, LHB overhead, the can, and the GSA markup (15%). There are smaller cost contributors such as labor, shipping, etc. There was only a minimal price increase in 2007 for freight, not materials. The next price adjustment is scheduled for fall 2007. NCP plans to hold their prices steady for another year in order to help maintain the current paint prices.

Action Items:

T&D: A formal letter will be drafted to LHB and GSA, and a separate internal letter drafted with notification regarding the discontinuing of the manufacture of citrus gallons. These items also need to be taken off the GSA Advantage web site.

GSA: Alaska needs to be included on the web site to show which shipping zone they are in.

GSA: Amend contract to require that a case of paint will be from a single product lot, and that partial cases will not be shipped.

GSA: Revise GSA Advantage system to only allow complete cases of paint to be ordered.

NCP Coatings:

Randy Terrill gave a presentation on NCP products and services. No notes were recorded per his request.

Action item: Variations of the new paint samples will be tested at the four test sites and in R5 and R2.

BLM Paint Recovery System

Paul Gammon gave a presentation on an aerosol can paint recovery system that was developed as a result of a State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality fine for potential releases of paint. The system was also developed to look at processing the aerosol cans and eliminating the accumulation of hazardous waste. Processing is still done at the office, not the field. The test system uses a 55 gallon drum and a can popper to recover the leftover paint. After six months and disposal of 1,500 cans approximately four gallons of paint were recovered. The paint was still liquefied but had some lumps. From this test, a new receptacle was developed that put the recoverable paint back into a quart container so it could be re-used and not accumulated as hazardous waste. The cost of building the receptacle is estimated at \$1,300. There was discussion regarding concerns of the mixed paint not being able to be tracked by lot number. There was discussion about using it for check cruises or other projects such as firewood marking, but not for timber sales, because the mixed paint does not meet current color schemes. The new system might be appropriate for those who use large quantities of aerosols (the BLM is the primary user of aerosols).

An alternative is to have a central collection point for aerosols between adjoining BLM districts with separate receptacles for each color where the popping would be done through a contract. The objective is to reduce the accumulation of hazardous waste and reduce the disposal costs.

General Services Administration:

Margaret Conroy gave a brief presentation on GSA, now called the Federal Acquisition Service. Their stated value-added components include the knowledge and expertise they provide of the entire procurement process, including contract administration. GSA is a non-appropriated agency and incurs costs, thus there is a GSA fee to cover overhead for their technology personnel, legal personnel, etc.

The on-line ordering system can be found at <http://usdaadvantage.gsa.gov>. Margaret went through the web site and did a sample search for paint. Initially, average regional prices will appear on a user search. Actual paint prices appear when the user's zip code is entered.

Margaret reported that one paint contract was already renewed and another one is scheduled to be renewed this fall (for five years). Bob suggested that both contracts be scheduled to end at the same time to reduce the amount of required paperwork. T&D asked if they could be more involved with the base contract pricing proposals prior to contract renewal. Margaret explained that there are no negotiations regarding pricing of JWOD items. Any price changes are tied to Produce Price Indexes (PPI). There was discussion on whether the base prices (not increases tied to PPI's) are justified and how to determine if those costs are accurate. The JWOD committee determines fair market value of paint products and T&D would have to work with them to learn more about base pricing of paint products.

Acquisitions Management:

Kelly Koeppe gave a presentation on the GSA Advantage ordering system for paint purchases. Fedstrip will only be available to purchase paint until the end of the fiscal year. Instructions for using the new system are on the T&D website, including information on how to submit changes to the list of authorized credit card holders or changing activity addresses. There is a list of current authorized credit card holders and Activity Address Codes on the committee-only web site. Credit card purchases are limited to the cardholder's single purchase limit.

A demonstration of the GSA website was done to show users how to log-on and navigate through the system. Card holders should validate their profile information when they log into the system. Kelly recommended that orders be billed by "line item" not as a "consolidated bill" – users should check this on their profile. Users can go into the order status/history tool bar tab to track their purchases. Users can change the name of the individual receiving the shipment as they proceed through checkout. Purchases can only be shipped to one address – products on the same order cannot be shipped to separate addresses so a separate order should be placed. Note: The single purchase limit still applies to orders sent to different addresses.

Mike Van Dyck had some pricing issues where orders were getting charged to the wrong pricing zone. This issue should be resolved with the new credit-card system. No other regions reported this problem. There have been some shipping issues but LHB has been very good about replacing lost or damaged paint. A question was raised regarding whether LHB should be paying the extra cost for scheduling/notification an LTL delivery as specified in the contract.

Action Items:

T&D: Update ordering instructions on T&D website to state that orders must be submitted in whole case numbers only, no partial shipments will be accepted (this minimum does not apply to tracer kits). Additional information will be added to the instructions explaining that the error message regarding authorized cardholders will go away once they "park" their shopping cart.

GSA: Work with AQM and T&D to change the on-line ordering system to allow whole case orders only.

GSA: Check with the contracting officer to see if LHB should be paying the extra cost for scheduling/notification of an LTL delivery as specified in the contract.

Plant Inspections:

Bob discussed plant inspections. He and Ann Melle of WO Law Enforcement & Investigations (LE&I) conducted plant inspections of LHB and NCP in September 2006. Both plants passed inspections and only minor suggestions for improvements were made. LE&I was impressed with the record keeping and security measures in place. John Carpenter has replaced Ann as the LE&I committee representative in 2007.

Test Site Status:

Results from test sites were discussed:

R3 reported severe fading of older paint (1999). Otherwise everything since 1999 has held up well.

R6 reported good results except for some fading problems with rain-resistant white aerosol from the 2001 application.

R8 will follow up the poor tracer checks on certain 2003 paint colors as the type of paint was not recorded on the field inspection form.

R9 Everything from 2003 and 2006 was satisfactory although some fading of white was reported. Mike reported that the rain-resistant paint was still tacky. He reported that the rain-resistant aerosol performed better than the bulk paint, possibly due to the acetone in the aerosol.

Action item: Test site administrators will send Dave an electronic copy of the field inspection forms and any available photos. Dave will post instructions for test site applications as well as test site results on the members-only website. Dave will modify test site instructions to include annual digital photograph requirements for each test site.

Paint Performance:

Waterborne Orange Fading

There were fading problems reported in R2, R3 and R5 with the orange waterborne paint, particularly on ponderosa pine. The majority of the problems in R5 were attributed to harsh southern exposures, wind, and the exfoliating nature of ponderosa pine bark. Similar problems were reported on the Deschutes National Forest in R6 but the issue was resolved when they switched to using rain-resistant paint. R5 reported similar fading with green. NCP is testing new products to address fading problems. No new official test sites will be developed to test the newly developed paint, but each Region can set up their own areas for unofficial testing in typical field conditions.

There are no guidelines for when a reported problem needs to be addressed. For example, if there is a failure at one test site does the problem need to be addressed? Or does it only become formalized when a similar problem is found at multiple sites? For now, the R6 issue with white will continue to be monitored. It is important that reps notify the field to monitor and report any problems encountered.

A proposal was made to re-establish a technical subcommittee to look into issues and make recommendations to the full committee as problems arise. Final decisions would be made by the full committee.

Decision: The technical subcommittee will be reestablished. R6, R8, R3, BLM, and T&D committee members will comprise the technical subcommittee.

Action Item: The technical subcommittee will develop procedural guidelines for addressing product failures with respect to contract specifications and present the information to the full committee. The committee needs to establish trigger points for when action should occur and what actions should take place.

Field Tracer

There was a question raised regarding procedures for checking field tracer once all other methods or “tricks” are tried. Current procedures are to send the paint to an approved state crime lab for testing. In a theft case, LE&I should take the lead on getting samples tested. Lab results need to be reported to NCP for interpretation. There are potential problems with priorities/backlogs at crime labs.

Action Item: NCP will send a list of approved crime labs and testing procedures to T&D and T&D will post it on the committee members-only web site.

Health and Safety:

It has been four consecutive years since the WO Occupational Health and Safety committee member has attended the annual TMP meeting. They are responsible for many areas but seem unable to attend our meetings. The regional health and safety representative was invited to this meeting but was unable to attend as well. Allison Good is currently the acting director Occupational Health and Safety.

There was discussion on the types of materials being used for paint gun cleaning and storage. The current Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) says not to use diesel for paint cleaning, but this does not correspond to the guidelines in the Tech Tip publication for paint gun cleaning and storage.

R9 reported that several forests have directed their employees to discontinue use of the rain-resistant paint due to perceived respiratory problems and reported headaches. Several CA-1's have been filed. R10 has had a report of one person getting headaches from the rain-resistant paint too.

Action Items:

Hosting region: The Region hosting the annual TMP meeting will, at a minimum, invite their Regional Health and Safety rep to the yearly meeting.

T&D: The Tech Tip needs to be updated to reflect current guidelines on material used for paint gun cleaning and storage.

R9: Mike Van Dyck will research the problem to get more details on the exact problems.

Equipment:

A question was raised regarding the proper type of equipment that should be used for aerosol disposal. Guidelines vary by state regarding the release of paint vapors. Equipment cost is an issue as most FS offices buy limited numbers of aerosols so an expensive disposal method would not be warranted.

Action Item: The technical subcommittee will research and post different puncturing/disposal methods on the web site.

Beefy Backpacks are available from San Dimas. Contact Dave if you want some for testing. The backpacks are available at no cost. However, T&D would like the backpacks to be used (and not collect dust).

A question was raised regarding the maximum quantity of paint that is allowed to be stored in a paint storage facility. The JHA contains all information regarding maximum storage requirements. These requirements should be cross-checked against state and local requirements to ensure applicability.

Action Item: The tip guide will include the form for reporting performance problems (which is located on the TMP web site).

Closing comments:

Bob gave a brief update on other FM T&D projects and provided information on submitting project proposals.

2008 Meeting:

The next meeting will be held the week of May 12, 2008 in Asheville, North Carolina.
