Purpose of the Meeting
Goal: To develop and/or expand the cooperation and support between the organizations:

Objectives: Share individual agencies missions and operations

Outcomes: Establish face to face relationship with staff's from the participating agencies; develop an understanding of agencies roles and programs; Identify potential opportunities for cooperating in projects and identifying research or informational needs.

Opening Comments:
Rob Doudrick – Director Southern Research Station
• The ET has decided to take the approach of asking “what do you need” rather than “doing what we want to do”. This approach along with the findings from the Southern Forest Futures gave rise to the state line meetings.
• The KY and TN State Foresters wanted to know more about what the SRS does and this is one of the objectives of the meeting.
• We need to change the way we communicate with agencies, partners and landowners. One concept that the Station is looking at is the Southern Family Forest Center (at this time name holder only). The Center could be a means of disseminating information to landowners in the South.

Leah MacSwords – Kentucky State Forester
• KY and TN share some commonalities that the other states in the south do not and that is hardwoods and we need an increased focus on hardwoods.

Jere Jeter – Tennessee State Forester
• We have some 500,000 forest landowners and the question is how we reach them. One on one is a great way but times and budgets are changing and we need to find a better system of communicating for both rural and urban landowners.

Southern Research Station - Overview of Science Areas
Greg Ruark – Water
• Power Point – overview of Science Area
  o Cold water fisheries research in Virginia
  o Research at the Savannah River Plant on coyotes and deer
  o Non-timber forest products

Kier Klepzig – Pest Management
• Power point – overview of Science areas
  o We are looking at benefits and/or impacts of invasive species on the landscape
  o We are looking at HWA and Chestnut restoration
• We are looking at small urban areas and trying to work with them before they become fully urbanized

Questions/Discussion/Comments
• To ensure that the biomass data is accurate we are currently redoing the equations.
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- Refer to Jim Chamberlain at VA Tech who is leading the research on non-timber forest products.

Mike Countess - SGSF Policy Analyst
- There are more and more tough questions coming from appropriators as to relevance and what difference does it make.
- The Farm Bill has passed the House and should be on the Senate floor in June.

**Specific Research Projects/Programs**
Roger Perry – Southern Research Station Bat Research Program
- Power Point Presentation
- The Forest Service is required to treat wildlife and timber equally
- Bats save up to 3.7 billion dollars annual as related to agricultural crops
- There are potentially 4 other species under consideration of being placed on the T&E list. Those in red (power point slide) will be the ones that foresters will have to deal with.
- The bat populations is declining because:
  - Wind Turbines
  - White nose syndrome (a non-native fungi which was introduced from Europe where it is common but not a problem)

**Questions/Discussion/Comments**
The FWS is not as restrictive on private lands as they are on the public lands.
Tara Keyser - Upland Hardwood Management & Regeneration

- Power Point Presentation
- There are over 90 species in the Appalachian Region
- The increase of Yellow Poplar across the region is a result of harvesting and management practices
- Desirable tree species of at least breast high must be present in the stand before the harvest.

Questions/Discussion/Comments
- David Loftus, SRS, has done work in this area.
- Landowner's objective plays heavily into this.
- Because of complexity of eastern forests we do not know which one
  - This may be a question that we can ask of the CIFSS.
  - The loss of Chestnut over time which allowed the oaks to take over could be one of the influences.
- KY: We will help you find one
- TN: We have one and will work with you

John Coulston – Shifts/Trends in KY/TN (Fragmentation and Parcelization – remote sensing; Invasives)

- Power Point Presentation
- Questions/Discussion/Comments
  - It is dependent upon the existing data format. Currently easy to go to the county court house and get the information
  - The National Land cover data base will be able to reveal. John and Bruce will follow up off line
Dana Nelson – Forest Health Initiative, A model for Rapid Response to Emerging Pests - Black Walnut/Chestnut

- More research is needed to ensure that no negative consequences impact the environment. Looking at 10 years out.
- Rob: Nursery stock will have a lower occurrence of getting infected trees out because the disease can be detected at the nursery level.
- Not Sure but the Chestnut Foundation and other cooperators have some state listings.

Social Science Research
- The Station will not replace the current tax work by John Greene but rather shift to studying taxes and policy on landowners.

Kentucky Division of Forestry – Leah MacSwords and Staff
- Given the budget restrictions our agency has to live within their means which meant the restructuring of the agency. (Handout)
  - Mining revenues are decreasing
  - Forestry funds are:
    - 80% General Funds
    - 15% Federal Funds
    - 5% Prescriptive Funds (Self Generated)
- We have gone from 182 employees to 154 employees.
- We developed the Organizational Chart but then Human resources did the realignment of personnel.
- Fires in Kentucky are a problem and in certain areas of the state residence are going to burn no matter what.
- The Insurance monies that we received from the storm damage to our nursery will come back to the agency to re-build the nursery rather than the state general fund
- Kentucky also experiences a problem with timber theft.

Tennessee Division of Forestry – Jere Jeter and Staff
- Research that links the spread of WNS to human presence in caves
  - We have closed access to caves on State Forest because of potential of spread of WNS by human presence. But if data is available to show that human presence is not a cause then we are going to reopen the cave on state lands.
- Interested in Management prescriptions on abused high-graded stands
  - What is a management prescription for these high graded stands?
  - Rob: A word of caution. Not everyone has the same value that we do so the use of certain terminology might be better avoided. High graded to us may not be high graded to a landowner.
- Estimate of acres coming out of CRP in the few years and going back into pasture or row crop
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- We estimate that some 60,000 acres of CRP land will potentially come out of
  the program and go back into agricultural
- Budget cuts and moving forward with FIA
  - Our original budget cuts included the elimination of the state program
    because our guide lines were “is this a program that someone else could do”. We worked with SRS to keep the program going.
- Tree Improvement and nursery operations in Tennessee
  - The question always arises “is this a needed function in TN”. We currently have one nursery in TN
- Keeping landowner assistance relevant and responsive
  - We need to be able to answer their questions and meet their needs.
    The sales story of “Sell them what they want and then sell them what they need”
- Certification of state forest and private lands
  - We are not going to re-certify with FSC on State Forest lands but rather going through Tree Farm Certification Program. The associated cost and legal ramifications lead us in a different direction.
- Our budget reductions were to be focused on personnel and programs that others could do. We lost personnel in the Central Office and we anticipate another cut this coming fall.

Future Opportunities/Questions and Assignment
1. Is there information available comparing the forest industries in the south to agricultural commodities? (Potential question for Jeff)
2. Is there any information on different crafts that can be made from woods in the Appalachian? Opportunities for non-traditional products. Educational component – what, where.
   - Need to share Jim Chamberlin’s information with the participants.
3. How do we tap into/communicate with the multitude of landowners of various ages with the existing information?
   - Other organization have addressed some of this and possible find what they have done.
   - Words are important – Resilient Forest versus Stewardship; High Grade. We need be cautious in that our wording may have a different value set to others.
   - In stewardship what performance measures should be used?
4. Why are people not buying into the stories that we have been telling?
5. How do we implement “land scale” programs (i.e. water) to small landowners scattered across the region and what is the impact from the small tracts?
6. What are the management/silviculture restrictions around caves and what are the primary and secondary exclusions?
7. Can we create a summary document that focus on hardwoods regeneration given what we know? (prescribe fire; impacts on stand structure, regeneration etc; artificial regeneration, prescription for “high graded” sites)
   - This may be an opportunity for a potential workshop
8. Gap: Need an experimental forest(s) in the KY/TN area to highlight demonstration and research.
   - KY – we will help find one
   - TN – we have one and will work with you
9. Do we know where all chestnut plots are located?
10. Is there any hard data showing the link between human presence in caves and the spread of WNS? (potential of closure could be based on season)
   - No studies
11. Resolve the discussion of the FIA funding from S&PF to Research – Rob/Leah/Jere
12. What are the issues with "I-Tree"?
   - Dudley Hartel – Eric Kuehler – SRS
13. Urban Needs:
   - Southern Version of PSW research on value of street trees.
   - Oak problems in Memphis.
14. Involvement thru partnering with ISA of arborists at the WUI (SWUI currently discussing this)
15. Marketing and Utilization – there is a need to re-visit the program
16. Research info needs:
   - Emerald Ash Borer – especially silvicultural recommendations
   - Thousand Cankers Disease – some sort of state of the knowledge summary
   - KY: Info on what trees folks should be planting in lieu of projected climate/precipitation changes