

Forested Wetland Effectiveness Project

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TWIG

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TWIG Request:

- ▶ The Forested Wetland Effectiveness Project TWIG is requesting Policy approve the Forested Wetland Effectiveness Project: Problem Statement, Objectives, and Critical Questions memorandum.

We are here!!

Technical Writing and Implementation Group (TWIG) Phase (326 days)

Policy reviews alternatives and approves a study design alternative

CMER approves scientific merits of BAS and alternatives

4.0
TWIG conducts BAS review and develops study design alternatives

Policy approves study objectives, problem statement, and critical research questions

CMER comments by email on problem statement and critical questions

3.0
TWIG selected and develops testable problem statement and critical questions to guide study design work

5.0
TWIG or outside contractor develops study design

CMER must approve study design

ISPR review of study design

TWIG or outside contractor revises study design

ISPR Associated Editor agrees with study design revisions

Update charter and prepare for implementation



Problem Statement

Effects of timber harvest and other forest practices on forested wetland structure and function remain poorly understood. Forested wetlands receive the least amount of protection among wetland types defined in the current Forest Practices Rules. Low-impact timber harvest is permitted in these wetlands where there is, or would be if trees were mature, a live-crown canopy closure of at least 30% of merchantable species.

Study Objectives

1. To examine how well current forest practices rules meet the performance target of no-net-loss of wetland functions by half of a timber rotation cycle
2. To develop study design(s) that, when implemented, will yield information on the changes in wetland functions and associated watershed resources due to implementation of forest practices rules

Critical Questions

1. How do the magnitude and duration of forest practices affect water regimes, water quality, plant and animal habitats, and watershed resources in forested wetlands and linked (via surface or subsurface flow) downstream waters?

i. How does timber harvest in forested wetlands alter processes that influence hydrologic regimes in those wetlands, in downgradient waters, and the connectivity between them?

ii. How does timber harvest in forested wetlands alter processes that influence water quality in those wetlands and in downgradient waters?

iii. How does timber harvest in forested wetlands alter processes that influence plant and animal habitat functions in wetlands, in connected waters, and in surrounding uplands?

Critical Questions

2. How well do current forest practices rules in forested wetlands meet the Forest and Fish aquatic resource objectives and performance targets, and the goal of no-net-loss of functions of those wetlands by half of a timber rotation cycle?

Next Step

- ▶ TWIG conducts BAS Review and develops study design alternatives
- ▶ Scientific merits of BAS and study design alternatives require CMER approval
- ▶ Policy reviews alternatives and approves a study design that will be developed by TWIG (or outside contractor)