

Timber, Fish, & Wildlife Policy Committee
 February 7, 2019 Approved Meeting Summary
 v. 2.27.19

Action	Responsibility
<p>Finalize the Policy report to the Board incorporating edits discussed during the February Policy meeting, regarding the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Type Np Alternatives Workgroup Charter b. Policy’s recommendation that the Board approve Policy’s re-prioritization of unspent FY19 funds c. Policy’s request that the Board review Policy’s proposed scenarios regarding high-level prioritization of the MPS and provide guidance to Policy d. Policy’s recommendation to prioritize a financial and performance audit of the AMP 	Terra Rentz
<p>Confirm the AMP budget request numbers with Dawn Hitchens and provide these numbers to Policy</p>	Hans Berge
<p>Provide to Policy an informational writeup and documentation of the 2019-21 biennial budget request process and the fund shifts currently proposed for the AMP budget</p>	Hans Berge
<p>Update the one-page project briefs by the April Policy meeting mailing date for delivery to Policy</p>	CMER
<p>Identify additional members of CMER to participate in the extended monitoring workgroup</p>	Doug Hooks
<p>Coordinate the organization of the extended monitoring workgroup</p>	Curt Veldhuisen
<p>Before the next Policy meeting, send a list of potential Type N workgroup participants to Hans and the Co-Chairs. Include skill set and contact information for each individual.</p>	Policy representatives

Decision	Notes
Approve the January meeting summary with edits.	The Eastside Tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent; all other caucuses voted thumbs up.
Form a joint workgroup consisting of six members with equal representation from CMER and Policy to produce a proposal to address the Board’s request for information around extended monitoring.	The Eastside Tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent; all other caucuses voted thumbs up.
Accept the scenario assumptions for the MPS generated at the February Policy meeting for delivery to the Board.	The Eastside Tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent; all other caucuses voted thumbs up.
Accept the proposed plan to determine membership of the Type Np Alternatives Workgroup, including the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Darin Cramer and Curt Veldhuisen will work with Emily Hernandez, AMP Project Manager, to scope the commitment description for technical experts. b. Policy representatives will provide recommendations for potential Workgroup technical expert participants to the AMPA and Policy Co-Chairs. c. Darin Cramer and Jim Peters will serve as co-chairs for the Workgroup. 	The Eastside Tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent, all other caucuses voted thumbs up.

Welcome, Introductions, & Old Business – Policy Co-Chair Curt Veldhuisen, Skagit River System Cooperative (SRSC), opened the meeting and reviewed the day’s agenda.

Hans Berge, Adaptive Management Program Administrator (AMPA), introduced Emily Hernandez, who recently assumed the position of AMP Project Manager. Emily previously worked as a geologist in environmental remediation and geotechnical work, as well as in the oil and gas industry.

Ken Miller, Washington Farm Forest Association (WFFA), shared printed information about the WFFA annual meeting on May 3, 2019. He will distribute the materials electronically when possible.

Policy reviewed the January meeting summary. Terra clarified that the Type Np Workgroup Charter document attached in the summary contained minor edits that were made after the January Policy meeting in preparation for delivery to the Board. These edits were described to Policy via email. A Policy representative suggested one edit to the Charter document, which was to change the wording at the beginning of the document from “Date” to “Effective Date.”

Action: Terra Rentz will finalize Policy’s recommendations to the Board regarding Type Np Alternatives, and incorporate the suggested edit to the charter document.

Decision: Approve the January meeting summary with edits. The Eastside Tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent; all other caucuses voted thumbs up.

Update on the Governor's Proposed Budget – Marc Engel, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), shared notes on DNR's budget requests that are pertinent to Policy. Highlights from his report include the following points.

- Operating Budget Requests:
 - Additional funding for four full-time employees (FTEs) for the Small Forest Landowner Office (SFLO); There are currently two FTEs. The Governor did not recognize the request so there is no additional funding.
 - \$820,000 for two Forest Practices (FP) roads engineers: The Governor did not recognize the request.
 - \$2.1 million for a new version of the Forest Practices Application Review System (FPARS): The Governor did not recognize the request.
- Capital Budget Requests:
 - \$20 million to fund about 100 projects in the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP) queue: The Governor's budget funded \$6 million. Funding for this project has ranged from \$2 million to \$10 million and averaged about \$5 million.
 - \$17.3 million to fund the purchase of the entire queue of the Forestry Riparian Easement Program (FREP), almost 160 projects: The Governor proposed \$3.5 million.
 - \$6 million for the Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program (RHOSP) project queue for about 17 projects: The Governor proposed \$1 million.

Hans Berge, AMPA, explained the numbers in the Governor's budget for the Adaptive Management Program (AMP). The identified need for the AMP was \$14 million. In the Governor's proposed budget, the fund shifts were reduced and an additional \$1.4 million was put back into the General Fund State. The result is a net increase of \$280,000 in the Governor's proposed budget. Policy representatives reported having received different numbers from a different source.

Action: Hans Berge will confirm the AMP budget request numbers with Dawn Hitchens and provide these numbers to Policy.

Action: Hans Berge will provide to Policy an informational writeup and documentation of the 2019-21 biennial budget request process and the fund shifts currently proposed for the AMP budget.

Legislative Update – Policy representatives reported on legislative outreach efforts.

- Ken Miller, WFFA, reported that the Small Forest Landowner study bill (House Bill 1273/Senate Bill 5330) was amended. Changes include deletion of the legislative task group, the added requirement of all work to be done by the University of Washington School of Environment and Forest Sciences, and an updated parcel data set. The expected completion date has been extended to November 2020. WFFA hopes that Policy representatives will educate their legislative representatives about this bill.
 - Marc Engel noted that as of February 7, Senate Bill 5330 still had the original language, while House Bill 1273 had the amended language. It is expected that House Bill 1273 will be the version that moves forward.

- Jim Peters, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC), reminded Policy that the Westside Tribal caucus needs at least two weeks' notice in order to respond to proposed legislation. Jim asked that Policy representatives alert NWIFC if they find out about bills that connect to the Forest and Fish Support Account (FFSA).
- Darin Cramer, Washington Forest Protection Association (WFPA), noted that WFPA is looking for opportunities to get funding for the counties for culvert replacement work.
- Marc Engel reported out on House Bill 1348, which pertains to tax regulations for business and industry across the state. The first version of HB 1348 lacked language about FFSA. FFSA language was later added. Marc recommended watching this bill.
- Marc Engel also mentioned Senate Bill 5597, an aerial pesticide application study bill. This includes recommendations for managing forested lands through integrated pest management. Terra Rentz noted that there is a hearing on this bill on Thursday, February 7.
- Ken mentioned that Policy had previously discussed creating a list of legislative contacts for each caucus and that this would be a helpful step for Policy members.

CMER Update and Work Plan – Heather Gibbs, DNR, provided an update on the changes to the CMER work plan. See Attachment 2 for a summary of the major changes that were made to the main document and to individual Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) sections. Heather noted that the Upland Processes SAG (UPSAG) section includes the Roads Prescription-Scale project, as this project does not have its own SAG.

Heather stated that Policy members could see the clean version of the work plan for more detailed descriptions of the active projects she mentioned.

Questions and comments:

- What is the process for adding new projects?
 - Each SAG presents to new projects to CMER and CMER approves. Policy then needs to approve funding.
- How does CMER define “active” projects?
 - Active projects are currently being worked on; this does not include projects that are in ISPR or are wrapping up. It does not mean the project is funded.
- Does Policy need to determine how to fund projects that are in Independent Scientific Peer Review (ISPR) in its next budget?
 - Hans Berge stated that Policy has funds allocated for ISPR review, but may fall short on funds when projects extend into the next biennium due to delays or when extensive comments must be reviewed and responded to. Hard Rock and Soft Rock may not make it through ISPR by June 30. The length of time a project spends in ISPR depends on the clarity and consensus of the documents that went to ISPR.
- Policy discussed reviewing the CMER work plan. Representatives requested updated versions of the one-page project writeups. Policy discussed institutionalizing the upkeep of the individual project sheets as a form of updated documentation.

Action: CMER will update the one-page project briefs by the April Policy meeting mailing date for delivery to Policy.

Doug Hooks, Washington Forest Protection Association (WFPA), provided an update from the January CMER meeting.

- Mark Hayes gave a presentation on the Stream-Associated Amphibian Response to Manipulation of Forest Canopy Shading. Mark will also give this presentation at either the March or April Policy meeting. CMER has approved this study and has provided comments on the findings report and answers to the Policy questions. If CMER approves this findings report at its March meeting, then it will be delivered to Policy for the Policy April meeting.
- CMER approved its final edits to the 2019-2021 biennium work plan, which will be delivered to Policy in late February.
- The Westside Type F Riparian project charter and communication plan will also be delivered to Policy for its March meeting.
- CMER discussed the January TFW Policy update as it pertains to the recommendations for projects that may utilize the unspent FY19 funds. CMER members expressed concern about the process leading to these recommendations and the lack of opportunity to inform Policy of their priorities. Although it was not requested from Policy, CMER members agreed to complete a ranking process in order to communicate with Policy. Please see Attachment 3 for an aggregated ranking from CMER members and notes.
 - In response to this update, Policy discussed the discretionary spending allowances provided to the AMPA. Hans Berge stated that he prefers to go through a ranking process with Policy and, if possible, obtain approval from the Board.
 - It was clarified that the amount of unspent funds is about \$400,000.
 - Marc Hicks noted that the prioritization discussion at CMER was very abbreviated, and there were many questions that were left unanswered. The prioritization did not have consensus among CMER members and there is uncertainty whether some of the projects on the list can feasibly be completed by the end of the fiscal year.
 - Action: Terra Rentz will include Policy's recommendation that the Board approve Policy's re-prioritization of unspent FY19 funds in the memo to the Board.
- CMER heard a review of the Potential Habitat Break (PHB) validation study from the AMPA. Doug reported that CMER has been unsure of its role in Board-directed projects. Doug reminded Policy that CMER needs clear direction and timeframes from Policy in order to manage projects and produce deliverables or information on time.
- The Headwater Science Symposium occurred at Oregon State University on January 15 and 16. Most of the Primary Investigators (PIs) on the Hard Rock study presented about the project. The presentation was well received.
- CMER learned that both the Hard Rock Extended and Soft Rock reports are behind schedule. Soft Rock is expected in March or April, rather than January. The Hard Rock Extended report is now expected to arrive after the Soft Rock report. Policy will need to reorganize its monthly workload to accommodate the updated dates.

Extended Monitoring – Terra Rentz, WDFW and Co-Chair, reminded Policy that the Board directed Policy to develop a process to address extended monitoring. The Policy Co-Chairs have asked the CMER Co-Chairs to take the lead.

Steve Barnowe-Meyer, WFFA, moved that Policy request that CMER develop a draft extended monitoring process per the Board's direction and provide that draft to Policy at the March Policy meeting. Doug Hooks stated that he had sent Terra a document that summarizes CMER's ideas. He noted that this is not a consensus-based list. Steve Barnowe-Meyer thus withdrew the motion. Policy discussed forming a workgroup to address the topic of extended monitoring, working off of the ideas provided by CMER. Policy representatives requested that the Co-Chairs share the document provided by CMER with Policy.

There was discussion of the Board's original directive regarding extended monitoring and the timeline of the directive. Terra referred to the Board minutes from the meeting at which the directive was given, which stated that Policy would "bring back clarity on when projects would need extended monitoring."

Alec Brown, Washington Environmental Council (WEC), moved that a joint workgroup be formed (consisting of six members with equal representation from CMER and Policy) to produce a proposal to address the Board's request for information around extended monitoring. Policy discussed the motion.

Decision: Form a joint workgroup consisting of six members with equal representation from CMER and Policy to produce a proposal to address the Board's request for information around extended monitoring. The Eastside Tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent; all other caucuses voted thumbs up. Alec, Darin and Curt will participate from Policy. Chris Mendoza will participate from CMER.

Action: Doug will identify additional members of CMER to participate in the extended monitoring workgroup.

Action: Curt Veldhuisen will coordinate the organization of the extended monitoring workgroup.

High-Level Prioritization of Next Biennium Funds – Terra Rentz began an informational discussion with a status update regarding the prioritization of next biennium funds. Policy submitted a balanced budget in August 2018; however, this budget may no longer be balanced due to cost and schedule changes in projects such as the Potential Habitat Break (PHB) study, Clean Water Act (CWA) assurances, and Type N extended monitoring. In November, the Board asked Policy to provide information to inform its discussion of the Master Project Schedule, after which it will provide guidance to Policy on budget development.

The budget workgroup was not able to discuss this in detail in time for the February Policy meeting.

Terra noted some core assumptions that guide the discussion around high-level prioritization of funds. These include:

- Funding for research stays consistent, leaving about \$4.6 million per biennium for project implementation.
- Clean Water Act assurances will soon expire, and the completion of these milestones is a top priority of the Board.
- Type N post-harvest add-on studies must be completed.
- Board-directed projects, such as the deep-seated slope strategy, should be accommodated if possible.
- Type N decision-making is in progress and projects related to that process are critical.
- Policy should try to reduce gap years between studies where possible.

Terra crafted several budget package scenarios based on the above assumptions, which were shared in the Policy February mailing. Each scenario selected a different leading priority. Mark Hicks noted that he had suggested to Terra to projects by cost and timeframe, taking into account the order in which projects need to happen and program capacities. Terra noted that “active” projects refer to projects in their implementation phase.

A Policy representative asked how this work relates to Policy’s Schedule L-1 items. Other representatives responded that L-1 is incorporated in every project to some extent.

Terra stated that as she understands, everything other than CWA milestones projects are up to Policy’s decision to prioritize. Policy would like the Board to be aware of the consequences of the project directives it gives to Policy, and for the Board to give Policy more direction on how to re-prioritize the MPS.

Terra shared a revised draft of the scenario assumptions on screen, and Policy suggested edits to the language. See below for the edited language.

Scenario Assumptions (Unanimous approval by Policy)

- *Available funds for research will remain stable from FY19 at \$3.8M per FY*
- *Administrated Expenses will remain constant at \$1.4M per FY*
- *Total available funding for research and other Board Directed requests is \$2.35M per FY (\$4.7M per Biennium)*
- *Active Projects (i.e. projects in *Implementation Phase*) are those in the data collection stage or are in final stages of report writing. Stopping these projects is not fiscally prudent.*
- *Completion or action on all Clean Water Act Milestones remain a high priority.*
- *Board directed projects have direct implications on the MPS. Examples include:*
 - (i) acceptance of the Type N recommendation includes a prioritization of a current study in *Study Design* phase that is not a CWA Milestone and is a newer project on the MPS;*
 - (ii) prioritization of the PHB study along the current timeline may delay other Board priorities (Deep Seated Sloped Strategy), CWA Milestones, or halt projects in *Implementation* phase; or*
 - (iii) reallocation of funding to support AMP Improvement may shift funds away from research and result in an inability to accommodate projects that were previously approved by the Board.*

Decision: Accept the above scenario assumptions for the MPS generated at the February Policy meeting for delivery to the Board. The Eastside Tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent; all other caucuses voted thumbs up.

Policy then discussed the draft budget scenarios. Each scenario listed projects by category (active, Board-directed, moving to implementation, needing study design, needing scoping, or related to extended monitoring). Each scenario included a budget breakdown by fiscal year. The following suggestions and comments were made. See Attachment 4 for the full Policy report to the Board.

- It was suggested that Policy send only the assumptions to the Board and request feedback before finalizing the high-level prioritizations.

- It was noted while it is helpful for the Board to select these priorities, Policy will still need to make ultimate decisions on the final project list, which may not align fully with the Board's priorities.
- Participants recommended presenting the information to the Board in a simpler format. This could be a basic table in which the first column would list the total costs of core projects for each biennium, and the following columns would list the costs for the other project categories. Participants noted that given the available funds and the projects already identified as core funding needs, the Board should decide between CWA-associated projects and Board-directed projects.
- Terra pointed out certain CWA projects have been deprioritized several times, but not taken off of the list, and asked the group for their thoughts on the topic. Jim Peters, NWIFC, recalled that project timelines were moved around because of sequencing reasons, and that some were removed for specific reasons. The tribes will take the lead from Ecology on which projects should be carried forward in order to meet the CWA standards. Mark Hicks, Ecology, stated a need for comprehensive project assessments to determine feasibility. There should be a rational process to determine how projects are reprioritized, because this affects Ecology's work. Hans Berge suggested that while certain projects may not need money at a given point, it may be useful to do a thorough evaluation about what can be gained from the project.

Action: Terra Rentz will incorporate Policy's suggested edits into the Board memo regarding Policy's request that the Board review Policy's proposed scenarios regarding high-level prioritization of the MPS and provide guidance to Policy.

Financial and Performance Audits of the AMP – Policy discussed the option of financial and performance audits.

Hans Berge reported that the State Auditor's Office has not done any financial audits, but DNR did an internal financial audit. A Policy representative remembered that Policy had asked the State Auditor's office to do a performance audit for several years but was not granted one. Another representative reported that the State Auditor's Office recently communicated that will begin a performance audit in fall 2019. It was noted that this audit is a high priority for Ecology in regards to the CWA assurances.

A representative suggested asking the legislature to help Policy have the performance audit completed, if there is an impediment to the process.

Action: Terra Rentz will finalize the memo to the Board including Policy's recommendation to prioritize a financial and performance audit of the AMP, and provide any previously completed financial audits to Policy.

Small Forest Landowner Template Update – Ken Miller, WFFA, reported out from the January 30 Template Workgroup meeting. The State caucuses brought forward two proposed experimental alternative prescriptions that attempted to address concerns. Ken stated that these prescriptions were in many ways comparable to the template proposal. The group discussed both of the proposed prescriptions and made suggested edits. The State caucuses will meet to create a second draft to bring to the February 14 Workgroup meeting. Ken expressed appreciation to the State caucuses for making an effort to find a solution.

Marc Engel, DNR, reported that the Workgroup has two meetings left. The second of these will be focused on creating final recommendation to Policy. The State caucuses met on February 6 to revise the experimental alternative prescriptions. Don Nauer, WDFW, stated that the State caucuses are looking to obtain silvicultural input on the draft experimental alternative prescriptions on conifer thinning and restoration, which are based upon two past proposed prescriptions that the Board directed Policy to review. Marc Engel pointed out that the proposed alternate prescriptions are a viable option in statute. They represent an attempt to allow silvicultural management in the Riparian Management Zone (RMZ) and still meet desired future conditions (DFC). It will involve a fairly rigid monitoring component. While there is science behind the proposed prescriptions, some uncertainty also remains about whether they will work, which is why the State caucuses chose an experimental route. It was emphasized that these proposed prescriptions are not intended to be a compromise to the goal of the Forest and Fish Agreement.

There was discussion of the deadline of deliverables of the Workgroup per the Workgroup's charter. Some inconsistencies in dates were identified in the charter. It was clarified that the Workgroup's intention was to provide deliverables for Policy to consider at its March meeting, after which Policy would make a final decision at its April meeting.

A Policy representative asked if, in the event that all three of the proposed documents were approved by Policy, all three would then all go forward to the Board. Marc responded that this scenario is possible, though the Workgroup is in the process of responding to the full request from the Board. The group's next steps include reviewing the State proposed prescriptions to see if they are acceptable, not necessarily whether they replace the original template proposal. The Workgroup will provide its final recommendations to Policy in the March meeting mailing. Mark Hicks, Ecology, offered that the Workgroup could review the history of the Small Forest Landowner Alternate Plan Template at its next meeting.

Curt mentioned that this updated information will be reflected in the Co-Chairs' report to the Board the following week.

Type N Workgroup Membership – Policy reviewed the proposed Type N Alternative Workgroup charter. It was noted that it may be difficult to obtain participation by scientific, technical, and resource experts. These experts may need to be paid for their participation.

Darin Cramer, WFPA, noted that the Industrial Landowners caucus has been internally discussing the issue of how to obtain desired workgroup membership participation. It will be easier for the Industrial Landowners caucus to find practitioners than scientific experts. It may be able to recruit scientists on a part-time, ad hoc basis.

Alec Brown, Washington Environmental Council (WEC), anticipates that the individuals that the Conservation caucus would invite will request compensation for their time. Darin suggested that Policy add some money to the Type N Workgroup budget to provide for compensation. Hans Berge stated that he was operating under the assumption that compensation would be in place, as would a project manager to set up the contracts. Hans suggested a commitment of 25% time, or one week per month for a year; or, alternatively, engaging different experts at different times based on the needs of the Workgroup.

Terra pointed out that Policy had considered taking a pause on Type Np Workgroup planning until the Board made its decision on Policy's Type Np Alternative recommendation.

Curt Veldhuisen offered to look at workgroup labor needed to create the fixed width template.

Policy determined that Darin Cramer and Curt Veldhuisen will work with Emily Hernandez, AMP Project Manager, to scope the commitment description. Darin Cramer and Jim Peters will serve as Co-Chairs for the Type Np Alternatives Workgroup.

Action: Before the next Policy meeting, Policy representatives will send a list of potential Workgroup participants to Hans and the Co-Chairs. Include skill set and contact info for each individual.

Scott Swanson, Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC), moved to accept the proposed plan to determine workgroup membership. The motion was seconded.

Decision: Accept the proposed plan to determine membership of the Type Np Alternatives Workgroup, including the following points:

- a. Darin Cramer and Curt Veldhuisen will work with Emily Hernandez, AMP Project Manager, to scope the commitment description for technical experts.
- b. Policy representatives will provide recommendations for potential Workgroup technical expert participants to the AMPA and Policy Co-Chairs.
- c. Darin Cramer and Jim Peters will serve as co-chairs for the Workgroup.

The Eastside caucus and Federal caucus were absent, all other caucuses voted thumbs up.

Next Steps – Policy reviewed the monthly workload document and the meeting schedule for 2019. There are rooms reserved at Ecology through December for Policy meetings.

The group discussed moving the review of the Board Manual 22 to the May meeting. The Co-Chairs agreed to discuss this change offline.

Next meeting date: As of February 7, the March Policy meeting was scheduled for March 6th & 7th, 2019, at the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. Due to weather-related impacts to the Board's meeting schedule, the Policy March meeting was later rescheduled to March 7th only.

There was discussion of meeting locations outside of Olympia. Policy had previously discussed the benefit of keeping its meetings in Olympia during the legislative session. Triangle is looking into meeting locations in the northern half of the state for the second half of the year. Regarding the possibility of Policy field trips, Curt Veldhuisen reminded Policy that the Co-Chairs are looking for a Policy representative to volunteer to organize a field trip for the group. There is interest in visiting a Hard Rock study site.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

Attachment 1 – Participants by Caucus at 2/7 Meeting*

Conservation Caucus

*Alec Brown, WEC

County Caucus

Kendra Smith, Skagit County

*Scott Swanson, WSAC

Industrial Timber Landowner Caucus

*Darin Cramer, WFPA

Doug Hooks, WFPA

Martha Wehling, WFPA

Small Forest Landowner Caucus

*Steve Barnowe-Meyer, WFFA

*Ken Miller, WFFA

Harry Bell, WFFA

State Caucus – DNR

*Marc Engel, DNR

Marc Ratcliff, DNR

Don Nauer, WDFW

Heather Gibbs, DNR

Emily Hernandez, DNR

State Caucus – Ecology & WDFW

Mark Hicks, Ecology

Terra Rentz, WDFW and Co-Chair

Tribal Caucus – Westside

*Jim Peters, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

Ash Roorbach, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

Curt Veldhuisen, Skagit River System Cooperative and Co-Chair

Debbie Kay, Suquamish Tribes

Tribal Caucus – Eastside

Marc Gauthier, Upper Columbia United Tribes

*caucus representative

Others

Hans Berge, Adaptive Management Program Administrator

Howard Haemmerle, Adaptive Management Program Project Manager

Rachel Aronson, Triangle Associates
Annalise Ritter, Triangle Associates

CMER Work Plan Major Changes (2019)

Main Document:

- Now 101 projects listed in the CMER Work Plan. 44 projects have been completed and 22 projects are active.
- Updated paragraph on the Lean process to capture those items that have been adopted by CMER from the pilot process.
- Included more information including dates and years throughout the document to increase understanding. Words like recent, current, etc. were removed.

ISAG:

- Updated each project description and status where needed.
- Added PHB project to the Work Plan
- Active projects for ISAG include; Default Physicals, eDNA, PHB

UPSAG:

- Updated each project description and status where needed.
- Active projects for UPSAG include; Unstable Slopes Criteria, Deep-Seated Landslide Research Strategy, Roads Prescription-Scale (technically falls under CMER overview)

LWAG:

- Updated each project description and status where needed.
- Added Seep Sensitive Sites, and Amphibian Project to the Work Plan
- Added Slash in Type N Streams Project to the Work Plan
- Active projects for LWAG include; Type N Amphibian and Phase 2

WetSAG:

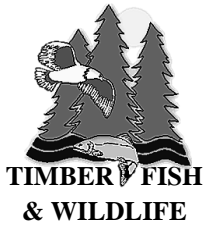
- Updated each project description and status where needed.
- Active projects for WetSAG include; Forested Wetlands Effectiveness, Wetland Management Zone Effectiveness, Wetland Intrinsic Potential Tool

SAGE:

- Updated each project description and status where needed.
- Active projects for SAGE include; Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Project (ENREP), Eastside Modeling Evaluation Project (EMEP), Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project (ETHEP)

RSAG:

- Updated each project description and status where needed.
- Added Wood Recruitment Volume and Source Distances from Riparian Buffers Project to the Work Plan
- Active projects for RSAG include; BCIF, Soft Rock, Extensive/Temperature, Extensive/Vegetation, Riparian Characteristics and Shade Response, Westside Type F, BTO Add-on, Hardwood Conversion



**Timber, Fish and Wildlife Policy Committee
Forest Practices Board**

PO BOX 47012, Olympia, WA 98504-4712

Policy Co-Chairs:

Curt Veldhuisen, Skagit River System Cooperative
Terra Rentz, Department of Fish & Wildlife

February 7, 2018

TO: Forest Practices Board
FROM: Terra Rentz and Curt Veldhuisen
SUBJECT: TFW Policy Committee Report

SUMMARY OF POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD

Action Items

Policy recommends that the Board...

1. Accept the consensus proposal and associated Charter.
2. Specify that an independent third-party performance audit be conducted with the State Auditor' Office during the FY 20/21 Biennium.
3. Encourage each state agency affiliated with the AMP process to prioritize an AMP Performance Audit with their state auditor requests for the FY 20/21 Biennium.
4. Direct \$25,000 of unspent funds from the Adaptive Management Program account be used to pay for four months of time for an available DNR forester to assist in implement the RMPA Checklist Survey study.
5. Review proposed scenarios in Attachment 1 and provide guidance to Policy in the form of high-level prioritization of projects in the Master Project Schedule.

Inclusion on May Agenda

Policy requests from the Board the inclusion of the following action items on the May Board agenda:

1. Review and approval of Policy's recommendation regarding the SFL Alternate Template;
2. Review and approval of the recommended strategy for extended monitoring; and
3. Review and approval of Policy's recommended Master Project Schedule budget *following* the aforementioned action item related to Extended Monitoring.

The Timber, Fish, & Wildlife Policy Committee (Policy) continues to manage the following major topics:

EXISTING PRIORITIES

1. *Type N Hard Rock*
On 12 July 2018 TFW Policy formally accepted the Findings Report and associated materials of the study entitled *Effectiveness of Experimental Riparian Buffers on Perennial Non-fish-bearing Streams on Competent Lithologies in Western Washington* (hereafter: Type N Hardrock Study). This action put into motion a 180-day timeline specified in Board Manual Section 22 that directs policy to (i) review and

evaluate the findings, (ii) determine if the findings warrant action, and (iii) develop, and select by consensus, alternative actions for consideration by the Board.

After review of the findings, Policy affirms that the Type N Hardrock study indicates a temperature increase associated with the buffer treatments tested. Therefore, Policy agrees action is warranted and developed consensus proposal outlining an alternative action process and the establishment of a Technical Workgroup. That proposal and associated workgroup charter are included in the Board Materials for review and possible acceptance. Policy unanimously appointed Darin Cramer, Industrial Landowner Caucus, and Jim Peters, Western Tribal Caucus, as co-chairs of the Technical workgroup.

A more in-depth memo associated with that work has also been provided. Policy anticipates receipt of Findings for the remaining Type N studies to occur in 2019.

POLICY RECOMMENDS that the Board accept the consensus proposal and associated Charter.

2. *Small Forest Landowners' Alternate Template*

Policy revisited to work of the Policy Workgroup on SFL Alternate Template. On September 4, 2018 the Workgroup called one vote and discussed potential actions for Policy consideration and approval for next steps. The vote was for the proposed *Alternative Harvest Prescriptions for Small Forest Landowners in Western Washington* template on the question: *Do these template prescriptions, as a whole, meet resource objectives to address common situations that re repeatedly addressed in alternate plans?* (No – 4, Yes – 1, Sideways – 2). At the September Policy meeting, the Small Forest Landowner Caucus appealed to Policy to continue discussion on the proposed SFL AP template as individual parts to determine if consensus could be achieved. Policy supported the appeal with strict adherence to a revised timeline.

More specifically, Policy tasked to Workgroup to: (i) develop and gain Policy approval of a Charter to ensure timeline and directed completion of deliverables (*complete*), and (ii) break down the proposed SFL AP template prescriptions into parts and assess individual prescription applicability as originally requested by the Board. Further Policy, asked the Workgroup to consider those templates that are still in draft/incomplete form for possible modification. Policy clearly stated that it is not the responsibly of the Workgroup to fully develop draft templates, but to only assess the applicability of prescriptions.

Review of existing draft templates and of individual prescriptions is occurring in a productive and forward moving fashion. Presently, there is a shift to develop experimental alternative prescriptions, which is a viable option identified in statute, for those elements that do not qualify as a template. There are still a number of outstanding issues that are awaiting resolution. The workgroup is still awaiting the receipt of the Riparian Literature Synthesis from ISPR, anticipated mid-February.

The deadline for the Workgroup is March 28, 2019. Policy will assess the recommendations of the workgroup and develop a recommendation for the Board.

POLICY REQUESTS that the review of Policy's recommendation regarding the SFL Alternate Template be included on the May Board Agenda as an action item.

3. *Stream-Associated Amphibian Response to Manipulation of Forest Canopy Shading*

This CMER approved study is in the final stages of development of a Findings report. CMER anticipates approval of the Findings Report on March 26, 2019 with an anticipated delivery to Policy in April. At that time, Policy will review the report and make a determination to accept the Findings. If that occurs, this study will be integrated into the proposed Type N process.

4. *AMP Performance Audit*

At the January 2019 Policy meeting, Policy prioritized the pursuit of a Performance Audit through the state Auditor's office. Specifically, Policy reflected on the May 9, 2018 motion by the Board to direct the Board Chair to contact the State Auditor's office to conduct an independent audit of the AMP. Upon Direction from the Board, Policy will convene a workgroup with DNR staff to understand the process, steps, and needs of the State Auditor's Office and to develop specific questions to guide a

Performance Audit. Further, Policy identified that an internal financial audit of the AMP has occurred in 2018 by DNR and would appreciate the receipt of those draft findings for consideration.

POLICY RECOMMENDS:

- **that an independent third-party performance audit be conducted with the State Auditor’ Office during the FY 20/21 Biennium;**
- **that the Board encourage each state agency affiliated with the AMP process to prioritize an AMP Performance Audit with their state auditor requests for the FY 20/21 Biennium; and**
- **that the Board formally requests the results of the internal financial audit of the AMP, conducted by DNR in 2018, be delivered to Policy for consideration.**

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

1. *MPS reprioritization of FY19 unspent funds*

In December 2018, the AMPA notified Policy of the availability of unspent funds for the remaining Fiscal Year 2019. To respond to that need, policy solicited project ideas from caucuses at both the CMER and Policy level that met the following criteria: (1) one-time expense, (2) able to “stand alone”, or not require additional immediate action, (3) able to be completed and fully expensed by June 30, 2019. Twelve ideas were generated ranging from audits and Type N Workgroup support to literature reviews, pilot projects, and scoping documents. Policy ranked those projects and applied a conservative budget estimate (\$275K) to determine which projects could move forward immediately, which providing flexibility to the AMPA to fund additional priorities if more funding becomes available. CMER conducted a similar ranking and presented those results to Policy. Of the eight projects likely fundable, three of CMER’s top four rankings were included:

- (1) Financial Audit (no cost; planning for FY20)
- (2) Performance Audit (no cost; planning for FY20)
- (3) RMAP Checklist Survey
- (4) Equipment – Riparian Characteristics and Shade Study
- (5) Type Np Workgroup Needs
- (6) Scoping – Wetlands Management Zone Effectiveness Monitoring project
- (7) Eastside LiDAR Acquisition
- (8) Literature Review – Forested Wetlands (Updated)
- (9) *Pilot Project – Extensive Riparian Monitoring Implementation (affiliated with RSAG_Extensive riparian status and trends monitoring)*
- (10) *CMER Fire Workshop*
- (11) *Chehalis LiDAR Acquisition*
- (12) *Literature Review – Windthrow*

Policy selected the RMAP (Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan) Checklist Survey as the top priority for unspent FY19 funds. Although an important project in directly assessing how well the Schedule L2 performance targets are being met on ratio of road length that should be delivering sediment to streams, the project presently falls outside of the CMER process. As such, Policy requests direct approval of the Board for the inclusion of this project. Background information on this project and the specific outcomes is in Attachment 2.

POLICY RECOMMENDS that the Board direct \$25,000 of unspent funds from the Adaptive Management Program account be used to pay for four months of time for an available DNR forester to assist in implement the RMPA Checklist Survey study.

2. *Relative Priorities for the Adaptive Management Program*

At the November 2018 Board meeting discussions occurred regarding the high-level prioritization of projects on the Master Project Schedule (MPS) triggered by three topics: (i) increased costs of the Board

Requested PHB study, (ii) the corrective milestone projects for retaining the Clean Water Act Assurances, and (iii) extended monitoring for Type N. Although Policy submitted a balanced budget in August for the FY 20/21 Biennium, changes in these areas are shifting what was balanced into projections that exceed available funds. As a result, the Board asked Policy Co-Chairs to describe a possible MPS scenarios reflective of high-level policy priorities to better equip the Board to advise Policy on a desired direction for FY 20/21 and out years. The resulting decision by the Board will frame Policy's recommended Budget due to the Board in May 2019.

A discussion occurred on February 7, 2019 regarding the possible groupings and messaging for the board. That discussion and subsequent scenarios are reflected in *TFW Attachment 1*.

POLICY RECOMMENDS a review of proposed scenarios in *TFW Attachment 1* and guidance to Policy in the form of high-level prioritization of projects in the Master Project Schedule.

3. *Evaluation of Extended Monitoring*

At the August 2018 Board Meeting, the FPB tasked both Policy and CMER to develop a proposal regarding how to address extended monitoring. The impetus for this request was a lack of clarity on the process and prioritization associated with extended monitoring for Type N. On February 2, 2019 Policy initiated a joint Policy-CMER workgroup composed of a co-chair and 2 members from each forum to develop a proposal that meets both policy and research process needs. The joint proposal will be presented to both Policy and CMER for approval by the April Policy meeting. This will be communicated to the Board, with the hope of receiving the Board's support for the proposed approach. This will have direct implications on the FY20/21 Master Project Schedule Budget and will establish a new decision path for extended monitoring.

POLICY REQUESTS that a review and approval of the recommended strategy for extended monitoring be included on the May Board Agenda as an action item.

4. *Budget Preparedness and Accuracy*

Policy has been discussing strategies to improve budget accountability, accuracy, and preparedness for the Adaptive Management Program. Many of these strategies will be reflected in the recommended MPS budget to the Board in May. Some strategies include:

- (i) adjustment of the budgeting timeline to support more timely and expedited contract solicitation;
- (ii) clear separation of projects by phases (Scoping, Study Design, and Implementation) to support realistic timelines and expectations for completion;
- (iii) an evaluation of processes associated with the AMP to support operations and oversight; and
- (iv) consistent application of funding for early project phases such as scoping and study design to ensure that every project on the MPS is moving forward in a timely and predictable manner.

POLICY REQUESTS that the review of Policy's recommended Master Project Schedule budget be included on the May Board Agenda as an action item following the aforementioned action item related to Extended Monitoring.

TFW Attachment 1 – Relative Priorities for the Adaptive Management Program

The following information is intended to guide the Forest Practices Board’s discussion around the relative priorities for the Adaptive Management Program compiled by Policy at the request of the Board. The information herein is not reflective of a formal decision or action item from Policy, but includes the breadth of opportunities for Board decision. Policy appreciates the willingness of the Board to accommodate this information after the first Board Packet mailing to provide Policy the space and flexibility to have a robust and informed discussion. The results of that discussion included a consensus vote to accept the Scenario Assumptions, and robust feedback to guide the presentation of information within this document. No caucus objected to the content herein and are supportive of the general guidance the Board can grant Policy to inform the MPS development process.

Scenario Assumptions (Unanimous approval by Policy)

- Available funds for research will remain stable from FY19 at \$3.8M per FY
- Administrated Expenses will remain constant at \$1.4M per FY
- Total available funding for research and other Board Directed requests is \$2.35M per FY (\$4.7M per Biennium)
- Active Projects (i.e. projects in *Implementation Phase*) are those in the data collection stage or are in final stages of report writing. Stopping these projects is not fiscally prudent.
- Completion or action on all Clean Water Act Milestones remain a high priority.
- Board directed projects have direct implications on the MPS. Examples include:
 - (iv) acceptance of the Type N recommendation includes a prioritization of a current study in *Study Design* phase that is not a CWA Milestone and is a newer project on the MPS;
 - (v) prioritization of the PHB study along the current timeline may delay other Board priorities (Deep Seated Sloped Strategy), CWA Milestones, or halt projects in *Implementation* phase; or
 - (vi) reallocation of funding to support AMP Improvement may shift funds away from research and result in an inability to accommodate projects that were previously approved by the Board.

Prioritization Scenarios (Projects w/in each scenario assume earliest possible implementation)

Core Budget – Projects in *Implementation* phase; occurs post study design approval and where work begins.

Prioritization Options:

- a. Additional Clean Water Act projects (Implementation phase CWAs are included in *Core Budget*)
- b. Additional Type N Alternative proposal implementation projects– currently includes Riparian Characteristics & Shade study, but may also include support for Type Np alternative development
- c. Additional Water-typing related projects– currently PHB Validation Study, but may also include scoping for default physicals
- d. Additional Deep-Seated Research Strategy Implementation projects
- e. Extended Type Np Monitoring projects

The following table is reflective of the biennial estimate for each Prioritization scenario to compare relative financial tradeoffs. Policy unanimously recommends the “Core” serve as the base budget.

FY	Available Funding	Core	Additional CWA	Additional Type N	Water Typing	Deep-Seated Emphasis	Extended Monitoring
20/21	\$4.70 M	\$2.33 M	\$1.37 M	\$0.21 M	\$1.99 M	\$0.20 M	\$0.22 M
22/23	\$4.70 M	\$2.84 M	\$1.74 M	\$0.17 M	\$1.36 M	\$0.40 M	\$0.51 M
24/25	\$4.70 M	\$1.51 M	\$1.55 M	\$0.05 M		\$0.40 M	\$0.38 M
26/27	\$4.70 M	\$0.21 M	\$0.81 M			\$0.38 M	\$0.15 M

Project specific information within each scenario is available upon request.

Background

Approximately fifty percent of the state’s private forests are owned by small forest landowners (SFL). Subsequent to the Forests and Fish Report (FFR), the Legislature modified the inventory, planning, and reporting requirements for SFL roads (RCW 76.09.410 and 76.09.420). Rather than requiring Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plans (RMAPs) for all their roads, SFLs must submit a checklist RMAP in association with any forest practice application (FPA). This checklist RMAP process requires that roads used in association with that FPA adhere to current standards, but it does not address any of the landowner’s roads until they are used for that harvest. The legislature further directed (RCW 76.13.110) that an assessment be conducted to understand if SFL roads as regulated through the checklist RMAP process poses a threat to water quality or if adaptive management changes are needed to the checklist rules. This legislative requirement was later captured as a corrective milestone for retaining the Clean Water Act Assurances in 2009. Work to address this need was not occurring, and in late 2017 in association with a report to the Board on the milestones, SFL representatives offered to help accomplish this road assessment task for their lands. As a result, landowners, tribal, and state caucus representatives began working cooperatively to develop a survey process. The process developed would rely on voluntary participation by staff from these entities; such a voluntary effort creates substantial challenges for a study.

Proposal

Policy recommends that \$25,000 of unspent funds from the AMP account be used to pay for four months of time for an available DNR forester to assist in implement the study.

This forester is experienced in conducting these types of road surveys and the outcome will be greater consistency in the assessment, and the project being completed much sooner. The field survey will collect data for a large sample of SFL roads (minimum 200) with the data separated by ownership size categories and further evaluated to get at the extent and causative factors for any sedimentation to streams and other typed waters. The field survey will additionally assess progress toward meeting the Forests and Fish Report resource objective of preventing the delivery of excess sediment to streams by preventing the routing of sediment to streams. It will also directly assess how well the Schedule L2 performance targets are being met on ratio of road length that should be delivering to streams. In advance of the field survey work, cooperators developed and sent out links to online survey to the SFL community asking about their roads, and requesting they participate in a field survey. The response has been very good with a large number of SFLs agreeing to include their roads in the field survey.