
WORKGROUP CHARTER: TECHNICAL SMALL FOREST LANDOWNER PRESCRIPTIONS

- I. **Date:** February 7, 2020
- II. **Project Duration:** February ##, 2020 through May 28, 2020

III. Introduction

This charter is intended to guide the formation and efforts of a Technical Small Forest Landowner (SFL) Prescriptions Workgroup (hereafter: Workgroup), which is a subgroup of the Timber, Fish and Wildlife (TFW) Policy Committee (hereafter: Policy). The Workgroup is formed as an outcome of a motion approved by Policy at their December 5, 2019 meeting, as follows:

Form a small technical workgroup to evaluate under what, if any, site-specific conditions a 75 foot and 50 foot buffer, respectively, would be acceptable as a prescription for Type F streams; and under what, if any, site-specific conditions a 25 foot buffer would be acceptable as a prescription for Type Np streams. The workgroup shall provide a recommendation to Policy by May 2020.

The purpose of the Workgroup is to perform a technical evaluation to determine under what, if any, site-specific conditions 75 or 50 foot wide Riparian Management Zone (RMZ) buffer prescriptions for small forest landowners may be acceptable for Type F streams and under what, if any, site-specific conditions 25 foot wide RMZ buffer prescriptions for small forest landowners may be acceptable for Type Np streams; the Workgroup will develop and provide technical recommendation(s) for Policy's consideration at their June 4, 2020 meeting.

A *technical evaluation* is one that considers specific harvest and management prescriptions, the possible site-specific conditions on which those prescriptions may be possible, and how those prescriptions may affect the forest practices resource objective to provide protection for public resources at least equal in overall effectiveness to the riparian protections provided in the Forest Practices Rules.

Technical recommendations are expected to include: (1) on-the ground prescriptions, if any; and (2) the site-specific conditions in which that prescription could apply including qualification for SFL and limitations for site-specificity; and (3) clear correlations to goals, objectives, and targets outlined in Schedule L-1 (Attachment 1)¹.

Policy anticipates that subsequent rulemaking or additional research may be necessary to implement SFL RMZ buffer prescriptions for Type F and Np streams that result from the Workgroup's recommendations.

IV. Workgroup Purpose

The purpose of the Workgroup is to evaluate under what site-specific conditions (e.g. site class, bankfull widths, forest stand conditions, stream reach lengths, harvest type, etc.), if any, variations to total width RMZ buffer prescriptions for SFL in Western Washington meet the objectives under the Forest Practices rules. Specifically, a 75- or 50-foot total width RMZ buffer prescription for fish habitat (Type S or F) streams; and a 25-foot total width RMZ buffer prescription for perennial, non-fish habitat (Type Np) streams.

Specific forest practices objective that must be met include:

- i. providing protection for public resources at least equal in overall effectiveness to the riparian protection provided in the Forest Practices Rules, including all six riparian functions as listed in WAC 222-16-010, and with an emphasis on:
 - a. providing functional wood to the stream over time; and
 - b. accounting for windthrow;
- ii. maintaining a core zone while considering options that allow for management (e.g. thinning, selective harvest) within the RMZ;
- iii. are repeatable and enforceable;
- iv. are operationally feasible;
- v. incorporate a monitoring and evaluation component, per WAC 222-12-0401; and,
- vi. are only applicable to small forest landowners.

The workgroup shall:

- Review existing operational parameters within the Forest Practices rules, Schedule L-1 goals, functional objectives, and performance targets, and scientific literature for the six riparian functions. These parameters will be used to determine if a proposed prescription does, in fact, meet the requirements of the rules after subsequent evaluation.
- Develop and provide technical recommendation(s), as articulated in Section III, from the evaluation of site-specific conditions for Policy's consideration at their June 4, 2020 meeting.
- Identify project goals, and intended outcomes, and metrics associated with prescriptions; specifically identify schedule L-1 functional objectives and performance targets to inform a subsequent CMER process for the development of a monitoring or evaluation strategy.

V. Deliverables

No later than May 28, 2020 the Workgroup shall submit for consideration at the June 4, 2020 Policy meeting:

1. Technical recommendation(s) for those documented site-specific conditions, if any, which meet the objectives in Section IV to allow for 75- or 50-foot and 25-foot wide RMZ buffer prescriptions acceptable for fish habitat and non-fish habitat streams, respectively, on small forest landowner lands in western Washington;
2. Schedule L-1 functional objectives and performance targets for the six riparian functions, project goals, and intended outcomes to inform a subsequent CMER process for the development of a monitoring and evaluation study. Monitoring and evaluation component may include pre-existing stand conditions to qualify, windthrow, reforestation, canopy response, residual tree species, diameter-breast-height, and tree spacing. This should also include a clear articulation of what information is needed from an evaluation to inform Policy's future decision-making *and* what those decisions may be.

VI. Membership & Composition

The Workgroup will consist of one representative from TFW Policy, whom will serve as Chair and four technical experts with alternate plan interdisciplinary team experience and expertise in one or more of the following areas of expertise: biological resource management, physical stream processes, and silviculture / forest engineering. Technical expert participation from the following caucuses is highly recommended: State Caucus – DNR, State Caucus – Ecology & WDFW, Tribal Caucus – Westside, and Small Forest Landowner Caucus. Workgroup members are not authorized to defer participation to proxies or substitutes without prior approval at Policy.

All workgroup members shall operate as technical experts and will not serve specifically as representatives for their caucus. However, an understanding of the field, policy and regulatory context will be valuable. Because familiarity and continuity among members are crucial to timely completion, meetings will require participation by all members. With Workgroup approval, members may invite associates to provide additional information. Associates' role will be technical, short-term, and specific.

Workgroup members agree to:

- Read and understand Forest Practices rules (Title 222 WAC) relevant to Type F and Np prescriptions;
- Acquire a deep understanding of the approved FPA's with alternate plans featuring 75, 50, and 25 foot buffers contained within the excel spreadsheets (Attachment 2)ⁱⁱ for western Washington SFL Alternate Plan (AP) Forest Practices Application's (FPA) between 2000-2015 to understand the full range of total buffer widths, type of harvest (conifer or hardwood), number of Fish Identification team reviews, and final RMZ approvals for SFL alternate plans, in preparation of each meeting;
- Familiarize themselves with "Small Forest Landowner Alternate Plan Template Review", 9/30/19 Final (including the associated process assessment by the Adaptive Management Program Administrator and affiliated documents such as comments from ISPR; *hereafter*: SFL AP Template Review), and other related CMER and non-CMER materials, as needed, in preparation of each meeting;
- Meet on a regular and timely schedule;
- Attend all meetings (in-person or by phone);
- Adhere to the timeline; and
- Assist the Workgroup Chair in reporting regularly to Policy.

VII. Group Process and Governance

Norms

The Workgroup will follow standard Policy norms and ground rules. However, the small size and technical nature of the work may allow for a more informal approach than occurs at Policy meetings. Members of the Workgroup agree to collectively provide a collaborative space to foster the technical evaluation and development of the objectives outlined in Section IV. Meetings will be open to the public, but with no public comment or public participation.

Governance

The Workgroup will actively work toward consensus; however, consensus is not required. If there is a lack of consensus, a simple majority vote can occur to move a decision forward and should be documented as such. Voting is only necessary if decision making is at an impasse. Majority-minority reports will be catalogued for all non-consensus decisions.

It is the role of Workgroup chair to inform Policy of non-consensus issues and to elevate those issues, if needed, for Policy resolution.

The Workgroup has no direct decision-making authority. All products delivered by the workgroup should be in the form of a recommendation for Policy consideration. Should the workgroup operate at an impasse Policy may intervene to ensure timely movement of deliberations.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chair

- Run workgroup meetings that maintain open and productive discussion and decision making;
- Work with the Workgroup to set up meeting schedule in advance;

- Work with Workgroup members to develop a work plan that meets deliverables, expectations, and timelines as articulated in the Charter;
- Ensure that meeting announcements and meeting summaries are prepared and distributed;
- Provide written and oral updates to Policy on Workgroup progress, issues, and decisions according to the timeline; and
- Identify if the Workgroup is at an impasse and notify Policy immediately with a recommended course of action.

Workgroup Technical Members

- Provide understanding of the Forest Practices rules (Title WAC 222) relevant to Type F and Np prescriptions;
- Have a deep understanding of approved FPA's with alternate plans including the total buffer widths, type of harvest (conifer or hardwood), number of ID team reviews, and final RMZ approvals;
- Provide expertise that helps solve technical problems related to developing the site-specific conditions that meet the objectives articulated in the Charter;
- Along with the SFL AP Template Review and associated materials, become familiar with the results of pertinent CMER and non-CMER studies, as necessary;
- Attend in person or via conference line/video link all regularly scheduled workgroup meetings;
- Be prepared for regularly scheduled workgroup meetings and complete assigned tasks within agreed upon deadlines;
- Participate in organized field trips, if needed;
- As requested by Workgroup Chair, attend Policy meetings and provide updates to Policy members;
- Follow guidelines established by the Workgroup Charter; and
- Adhere to TFW Adaptive Management ground rules and any other ground rules established by the Workgroup.

ⁱ Attachment 1: Schedule L-1 as approved by the Forest Practices Board on 02-14-2001

ⁱⁱ Attachment 2: Small Forest Landowner Alternate Plan Summary Workbook: Northwest, Olympia, PC, and South Puget Sound Regions