MEMORANDUM

DATE:        April 9, 2014

TO:          Stephen Bernath, Co-Chair TFW Policy Committee
             Adrian Miller, Co-Chair TFW Policy Committee

FROM:        Aaron Everett, Chair, Forest Practices Board

RE:          Initial assignments in preparation for Forest Practices Board discussion of mass wasting

This memo is to capture my request at the April 3 meeting of the TFW Policy Committee to begin a conversation about further evaluation of the *Mass Wasting Effectiveness Monitoring Project* study results and the overall mass-wasting strategy for the adaptive management program.

The mass-wasting effectiveness study, as you know, related to a group of landslides that occurred in Southwest Washington in December 2007. There are three specific subjects pertinent to the study I would like the adaptive management program to review:

1. The study included all landslides that either delivered sediment to a public resource or posed a threat to public safety. As I review the results, they do not differentiate between those two subpopulations in reaching the report’s conclusions. I believe Policy should convene the appropriate study authors and CMER staff to evaluate what may be learned from further review of the public safety subpopulation.
2. Similarly, a small number of slides (10) within those studied were glacial, deep-seated events. What more can be learned from further inquiry into this small subgroup?
3. Critical questions 5 and 6 of the report related to evaluating rule performance against resource objectives, and evaluating other CMER studies underway or planned as to their utility in furthering our understanding. On both counts, I am requesting a discussion examining to what extent the rule group and resource objectives related to public safety were discussed or considered in the formulation of Policy’s recommendations to the Board or should be discussed in future deliberations on future mass-wasting studies.

More broadly, I am also requesting a review of the Adaptive Management Program’s approach to the mass wasting strategy.

I believe that all of Policy’s other priorities should be considered secondary to these issues until such time as the Board can determine its next steps. The above will certainly not comprise the full measure of the Board's deliberations, but represent a series of initial questions.

c: Bone Forest Practices Board members
    Forest Practices Board Liaisons