SEPTEMBER 9, 2003 - FIELD TOUR

The Board, staff, and public met at the Yakima Red Lion Hotel in Yakima to begin the field tour. The tour included private and state owned sites. Discussion topics were culvert installation to improve fish passage, Road Maintenance and Abandonment Planning (RMAP), Perennial Initiation Points (PIP), and eastside forest health issues. The field tour ended at 4:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 10, 2003 – SPECIAL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Pat McElroy called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Karrie Brandt gave an emergency safety briefing. Introductions were made of the Board, staff, and attendees.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alan Pleus, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, commented on the PIP site visit on the previous day’s field tour. Pleus stated that from the tribe’s point of view there is a wide range of
situations on the eastside, including some anomalies. To assist in dealing with these dry situations and type 4 functions, Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation and Research (CMER) has initiated the type N (non-fish waters) study. The scientific analysis will identify the functions and the best way to differentiate between a type NP (non-fish perennial waters) and a NS (non-fish seasonal waters).

FIELD TOUR DISCUSSION

Wendy Holden complimented staff for their efforts in putting together the retreat. She felt the site examples suitably illustrated the problems that people were having with the rules. She hoped that the Board would consider the impacts that the details of the rules have especially the way people in the field pour over them and take the rules literally. Holden thought the Board needed to be careful about its choice of rules and words to make sure that sufficient flexibility for appropriate levels of professional judgment in the field is built into them so not to be so prescriptive that unintended consequences are created.

Mankowski shared cost estimates on culvert installation for fish passage. The estimates were jointly created by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and the Department of Natural Resources and provided by six small forest landowners in western Washington. Some factors that affect cost include road width, engineer and operator experience, depth of road fill, and road alignment at stream crossing. Costs range from $4,000 for 5-8 foot culverts to $50,000 for a 50 foot steel bridge. The Board would like to be apprised as new data and costs estimates are developed.

Mankowski agreed with Holden that latitude should be built into the rules. Along with a good training program that provides an understanding of what the function and values are of the rules.

Hagiwara also thanked staff and commented on the importance of the Board receiving feedback from field folks on how the rules are working. He values the discussions in the field and would advocate for more field tours.

Soicher stated that the intent of a rule should be stated in the Board Manual sections and in the rules. He supports some flexibility in the rules to allow for professional judgment but they also need to be prescriptive to an extent.
BOARD MANUAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Marc Engel presented a timeline created by stakeholders and Board staff for action on revising and developing Board Manual sections over the next two years, which included targeted approval dates and a priority order. Sections that will be before the Board in the near future include Shade Requirements, Channel Migration Zone (CMZ) and Bankfull Width, Forest Roads, Watershed Analysis, Determining Fish Use, and Alternate Plans.

Alan Soicher asked if the sections on Determining Fish Use and Guidelines for Field Protocol would be ready when the watertyping model is complete. Engle responded yes, that is the intent.

Soicher also suggested that the Adaptive Management section be developed sooner than 2005. The Board concurred and asked Engel to make Section 22 a higher priority.

WILDLIFE PLANNING

John Mankowski stated that he would like to have project scoping information for the Board at the November meeting. Then he would like to schedule a workshop for December to present the complex issues to the Board. A special meeting for the Board will be held on December 2, 2003, for wildlife planning.

DEVELOP BOARD’S 2004 WORKPLAN

Ashley DeMoss reviewed the work plan that was established last year and provided a progress report on those activities. The Board’s 2004 work plan includes ongoing activities from 2003 such as rule making on RMAPs, marbled murrelets, cultural resources, the Board's procedures and ethics, and administrative rule clarifications. Other anticipated Board activities include a pilot for testing riparian rules, revising and developing Board Manual sections, the new water type model and maps, ongoing work with DFW on its wildlife assessment and rule review, rule recommendations from adaptive management research, and response to Critical Wildlife Habitat Designations by the services for listed salmonids. In addition, panel discussions on the economics of a "viable forest products industry" and field practitioners reporting on Forests and Fish rule implementation were also expected.
The Board’s meeting schedule for the remainder of 2003 and 2004 is as follows:

- September 25 & 29, 2003 - RMAP E-rule hearings in Longview and Colville
- October 15, 2003 at the Natural Resources Building in Olympia
- November 12, 2003 at the Natural Resources Building in Olympia
- December 2, 2003 (wildlife planning workshop) - Location to be determined
- February 10 & 11, 2004 (water typing tour) - Olympia area
- May 5, 2004 - hold date open in the event a meeting is needed
- June 1 & 2, 2004 (wildlife fieldtour) - Location to be determined
- August 11, 2004 at the Natural Resources Building in Olympia
- November 10, 2004 at the Natural Resources Building in Olympia

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session convened at 11:25 a.m. and ended at 11:37 a.m.

MOTION: Tom Laurie moved to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.