



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

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**Policy Co-Chairs:**

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TO: Washington Forest Practices Board  
FROM: Marc Engel and Meghan Tuttle  
SUBJECT: TFW Policy Committee Report (November & December 2020; January 2021)

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**POLICY RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD**

**Eastside Type Np Riparian Effectiveness Project (ENREP)**

The TFW Policy Committee (Policy), at their January 2021 meeting, received a request from CMER to approve a request to clearcut the riparian buffer along a stream segment adjacent to a Type- Np stream within 500 feet of the streams confluence into a Type- F stream. The request will accommodate one of the study objectives to test the effects of clearcutting riparian buffers along seasonally dry stream segments within one of the paired basins in the ENREP study.

Policy unanimously accepted this request and supported the Adaptive Management Program Administrator bringing the ENREP Pilot Rule Making request to the Forest Practices Board (Board) for approval.

**TFW POLICY COMMITTEE BUSINESS UPDATE**

**Adaptive Management Program (AMP) Budget and Master Project Schedule (MPS)**

The Board, in August 2020, approved the MPS and budget for the FY 21-23 biennium. Since that time, the Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Committee (CMER) has reviewed, updated and approved the CMER Work Plan. Policy has reviewed and accepted the Work Plan and beginning in January has convened a Policy Committee Workgroup to evaluate the MPS budget to determine if changes are needed. Policy will receive the Workgroup findings in March to prepare FY 21-23 MPS budget recommendations to bring forward to the Board at their May 2021 meeting.

**Extensive monitoring**

Policy convened an Extensive Monitoring Workgroup to plan and moderate an Extensive Workshop which was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> January. The purpose of the workshop was to help Policy caucus leads to understand extensive monitoring program concepts and explain why it is an important component of the Forest Practices Adaptive Management Program (AMP). The Policy Committee has requested the Workgroup to develop potential extensive monitoring projects and bring them to Policy at their March meeting to begin the development of an AMP extensive riparian monitoring strategy for inclusion in the MPS.

### **Type Np Workgroup**

The Policy Type Np workgroup has been assembled to recommend alternative riparian buffers for Type Np waters that would meet the water quality standards and protect other aquatic resources as identified in rule. It is expected that the workgroup will deliver a draft report and presentation to Policy in March 2021 with the final report to be delivered to Policy by June 2021.

### **Small Forest Landowner Alternate Plan Template Proposal**

In December 2019 to address the proposed alternate plan template proposal, Policy, by motion agreed to further explore areas of consensus by convening two technical workgroups to:

- Evaluate what, if any, site-specific conditions smaller riparian buffers of 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; and
- Continue work on the experimental conifer restoration and conifer thinning alternate harvest prescriptions, including consideration of a monitoring and evaluation component that would later be developed by CMER.

These workgroups completed their assigned work in consecutive order with the results of the buffer workgroup completing their work before the experimental harvest prescription workgroup presentation of results to Policy. At present the status of Policy response to the results:

### **Small Forest Landowner Request for Smaller Riparian Buffers**

Policy could not agree on how to proceed in the review of the results of the technical workgroup and in June 2020 the small forest landowner caucus invoked dispute resolution. Stage 1 of the dispute resolution process on work to identify field situations where narrower buffers on Type F and Np waters would be appropriate has ended without consensus. Stage 2 of dispute resolution has been invoked and a mediator has been contracted to initiate this stage in February 2021. It is anticipated this stage of dispute resolution could be completed by the end of April but may extend to the end of June depending on the complexity of the mediated process.

### **Small Forest Landowner Experimental Harvest Prescription**

This workgroup provided a report with two potential experimental harvest prescriptions and an associated experimental harvest prescription monitoring and evaluation strategy request for CMER in December 2020. Policy accepted for review the draft alternate harvest prescriptions for conifer thinning and conifer restoration and the alternate harvest prescription monitoring and evaluation strategy request for CMER in January 2021. Policy will, at their March meeting, begin discussions to establish the process for review of the alternate harvest prescriptions and the timeline to complete the review. At present, a timeline for when Policy will bring forward recommendations to the Board has not been established.